

to Europe and England with the First International Turfgrass Research Conference which was held in July. He had several excellent slides and some interesting commentary about the cultures and practices of the style, methods, and beliefs of Europeans and their grass growing. Might be a nice idea to have one of the men in attendance on the program for some of the local conferences this fall and winter.

FROM THE EDITOR

This month's column is a combination book review and comment column. Our subject matter is taken from two separate texts and comment will be made accordingly. Agreement or disagreement should be made accordingly.

The first article we will discuss appeared in the August issue of the Reader's Digest. The title was "How To Grow A Perfect Lawn." The title itself suggests a note of levity, since a perfect lawn is an impossibility in this area as everyone knows. The article, however, was written by a J.N. Miller, no doubt a staff writer for the Digest, but he got his information from one Stanley Bulpitt, a nursery employee in Connecticut who "for twenty years has been building and maintaining hundreds of lawns of every size and in every kind of soil from Maine to New Jersey." Notice he stops far enough north to avoid trouble from the Mid-Atlantic region. Some of his comments were good, some not so good. But in any event, it seems funny that someone with a little more insight into the problem wasn't contacted, namely someone in our line of work. Paul Voykin, the super at Briarwood C.C. in the Chicago area, just published a book on the subject! You couldn't ask for a better source of information than that. Well, maybe next time, huh? Incidentally, reprints of the article are available from the magazine, if you are interested.

The next interesting article is one that appeared in the syndicated Parade section Sunday, Aug. 17. The article was written by Lloyd Shearer and was entitled "Artificial Grass Is Greener." In the article, statistics were quoted by Mr. Shearer to the effect that player injuries dropped 80% after installation of artificial turf. Well, this seems vague, doesn't it? Eighty percent as compared to what? Whose figures were these? There is an interesting story behind all this, too. Monsanto invited field men, stadium managers, and several other key people in these positions to view this material on a three day tour in the midwest. Result, several sold people. But on what? Dr. Gene Nutter in his Turf-Grass Times discussed the fallacy of the pseudo-grass some months ago. But obviously Mr. Shearer missed that issue. A couple of rather quotable quotes from this article on how good this fake grass is. Tex Schramm, the president of the Dallas Cowboys says, "By 1975, you

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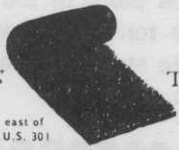
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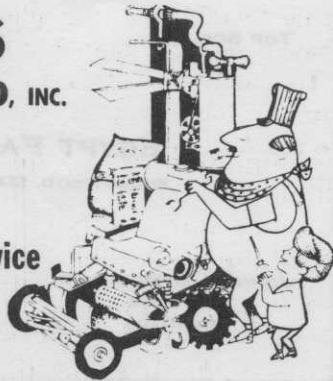
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will have an artificial lawn surrounded by artificial flowers and shrubs. No more mowing the grass. No more watering. An hour or two of maintenance per year and you will have a prettier garden that you have now." So says the president of a football team on the future of turf management. Any of you supers have any long range forecasts to make on the future of football? But now Joe Namath is another story. He made a few comments too. The New York Jet's quarterback says "Now everybody likes it better than regular grass." Everybody like who? In any event, we can rest assured that we won't be out of a job because of plastic grass. At least not within the next five years. But even if we are, there are all kinds of job opportunities that will be made available with the development of this grass. How about making plastic weeds to plant all around the yard to make it look realistic? Or how about making plastic dogs to deposit plastic piles in the plastic flower beds? Or what about — oh well, just forget about it!

BIG PARTY

It seems Sam Kessel from C.C. of Fairfax and his wife Sue had quite a Saturday night on the 13th of last month. They went to a rather unusual cocktail party at Dulles Airport. The party wasn't too unusual - it was the guests that were a little out of the ordinary. Would you believe the entire Ryder Cup team? Seems Sam's club president and Melvin Rowe, the pro at Fairfax had something to do with the deal and as a result, the super and his wife were invited.

Besides the entire team, captained by Sam Snead, other guests were Mr. Red Snyder, the president of Burning Tree C.C. who also went with the team and Max Elbin, the president of the PGA.

All in all, it sounds like a very enjoyable evening and one that the Kessel's are not likely to forget for several golfing seasons.

