

# Parker Shirling Testimonial Dinner

M. Parker Shirling — April 29, 1976 — Annapolis Hilton — Annapolis, Maryland

Dr. John Hall — MC

Program arranged and developed by Merrilyn Jacobs with the help of Dr. John Hall and Jean Bright (Parker's Secretary).

We have heard lots of good things and statements about our fine guest of honor this evening. It has been a great pleasure for all of us to work with Parker since he came to Maryland in 1962. I have the pleasure of presenting a few more bits of information that some of you may not be aware of.

He started with a farm covered with agricultural crops, plus some weeds. He produced the first crop of quality turf as we know it today in 1965.

First load of Princeton sod went to J.H. Burton in Hyattsville, Maryland in April 1965.

Since starting Maryland operations in 1965 with 250 acres, the acreage has increased to just under 1,000 acres under cultivation.

First certified sod in Maryland — first in the USA and probably the first in the world.

Active in both local and national landscape and nursery associations, as well as various sod associations.

Instrumental in forming the Maryland Turfgrass Association, serving as the first president.

Annual turf scholarship — Parker Shirling Scholarship. Parker, as the first president of MTA, proposed an MTA scholarship to a deserving Agronomy (turf) student each year. The proposal was adopted and the size of the scholarship expanded over the years. The MTA Executive Committee in early April 1976, named the annual MTA scholarship the "Parker Shirling Maryland Turf Scholarship" in honor of the founding president and loyal supporter.

Instrumental in drafting and adopting the present Maryland and Virginia Sod Laws and Regulations.

Serves as a consultant and advisor to several national associations.

Also instrumental in drafting the first general "Guideline Specifications" for landscape architects, both local and national.

Served on Delmarva Advisory Council and for that group, was chairman of the committee on "land use" on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Parker has worked closely with the University Experimental Stations, Departments of Agronomy of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Penn State, Purdue and Michigan in research and development of new methods in turf production as well as being one of the stations maintaining test plots for new varieties of turf grasses.

— Member of (and Served on the Board of Directors of some of the following):

Virginia Nurserymen's Association  
American Association of Nurserymen  
Associated Landscape Contractors of America  
Landscape Contractors of Metropolitan Washington  
Maryland Turfgrass Association (First President)  
Maryland Turfgrass Association  
New Jersey Turfgrass Association  
American Sod Producers Association  
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America  
Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association

Member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Centerville

Member of Rotary Club of Centerville

Member of Rotary Squadran

Chester River Yacht and Country Club

B.P.O. Elks of Easton, Maryland

Past Exalted Ruler of B.P.O. Elks No. 586 of Concordia, Kansas

Past President of Lions Club of Concordia, Kansas

Received "The Silver Beaver Award" Boy Scouts of America, January 1942, for service to boyhood.

Received Order of Merit Award, Boy Scouts of America, March 1973, for outstanding service to boyhood.

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May 3, 1976

Mr. Craig Spottswood, Editor  
Mid-Atlantic News Letter  
9015 Spring Hill Lane  
Chevy Chase, Md. 20015

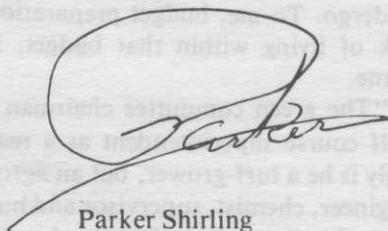
Dear Craig:

My most humble thanks to all of Mid-Atlantic.

The beautiful silver wine cooler shall always be in a place of honor to remind me of my association with all of you. Truthfully, I know of no group that has provided such a pleasant relationship. I think that what really put me away or caused my retirement was the "40" handicap.

Ruth and I thank you all again and I sincerely hope that I will be able to attend at least one more meeting before we move.

Most sincerely,



Parker Shirling

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