

## DOC'S DUGOUT



Dr. Kent Kurtz, Executive Secretary, STMA

Quite often many of us are asked the question, "What will STMA do for me?" or the other one, "What do I get for my membership dues?" Several times I have turned their question around and asked them what they are going to do for STMA! This retort parallels the timely statement by our late President, John F. Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country".

STMA is growing in stature, prominence and numbers each day and STMA directly or indirectly affects the lives of many people, both members and non-members alike. The regional seminars (on both the west coast and in the midwest) have been very well received. These have been dubbed "the traveling road show" by several people but none the less attendees are exposed to the very latest ideas, techniques and products and many speakers are successful STMA members. We have purposely kept registration costs, including lunch, very low so everyone can afford to attend these events. We have a reduced rate for STMA members and members are singled out by special name tags bearing a white and blue membership ribbon. For the first time schools, parks and other grounds management personnel are beginning to meet colleagues and peers at these events and are beginning to share ideas, problems and solutions. New friendships are blossoming and many institutions are beginning to share equipment.

The STMA membership dues are quite low compared to other organizations.

However, it is common knowledge that dues alone will not carry an organization. STMA needs to share in the proceeds from trade shows, actively pursue commercial advertising and hold or sponsor special dinners or luncheons. Currently, no one in STMA, including your Executive Secretary, is paid a salary. Everyone is a non-paid volunteer and most of your officers and board members pay for their own expenses for executive meetings or in many instances their employers have been paying for these activities. When STMA became an independent association in the fall of 1984, we had only 60 members and only \$1600 in the bank. STMA membership is now 400 and we have begun to expand membership services. Financially we are stable but we have a long way to go in order to catch up with other professional organizations who have been operating for many more years. We will continue to grow within the means of our capabilities and will provide a positive, progressive and professional experience for our members.

Very soon all members who have paid their 1986-87 membership dues will receive a very attractive membership certificate. These personalized certificates are suitable for framing or can be mounted on a wall plaque. Currently members are eligible to receive, at no cost, all three of the cooperating sports turf related trade magazines, *Sports Turf*, *Grounds Maintenance*, and *Weeds, Trees, and Turf*. We are investigating the availability of both group and individual liability insurance. The STMA Board at its mid-year meeting in June established two scholarships which will be offered to student members on a competitive basis. STMA recognizes the need to encourage young people to catch the Sports Turf fever and pursue careers in this area of endeavor.

STMA would like to eventually initiate a consultation service which would be available to members. Thoughts are that we could utilize the talents of retired members, cooperative extension personnel and University Turf specialists, who would like to stay active and involved in this industry. We have been encouraged to begin compiling a set of suggested standards and specifications for the construction and maintenance of Sports Turf facilities. To accomplish this large undertaking we need everyone's input, cooperation and suggestions. Several STMA

members are currently offering internships to students who want to learn and gain experience in this career area.

A most unique and helpful gesture is being offered by some of our established professionals. A few STMA members are offering to allow young people and less experienced members the opportunity to participate, observe and learn the "how to" of proper techniques and cultural practices. The only requirement is that they sign a waiver of liability form. What a terrific step forward for our industry!

So what is STMA doing? A lot, but we can do even more if everyone works together. Let's encourage others to join STMA - that's your job!

### STMA BOARD Approves A Scholarship Program For Students

At its Midyear Board Meeting in June Officers and Directors established a Scholarship Award Program to provide financial assistance to students. Two \$250 Scholarship Awards will be awarded in Phoenix to two students who are pursuing careers as Sports Turf Managers. The first year, students who are STMA student members will be mailed scholarship forms this fall and the recipients will be selected by the Awards Committee chaired by Dale Sandin - STMA Director.

The Scholarship Awards will be named for two individuals who have contributed to Sports Turf, exemplified themselves and given of themselves in some special manner befitting of recognition. One Award will be called the *Harry Gill Award*, the other the *Jeff Wishard Award* (see story, page nine).

### HELPING BUILD A DREAM

by Samuel P. Newpher, Grounds Superintendent,  
Atlanta Braves Baseball

Any professional baseball grounds superintendent will tell you that the heart of his field is the infield. At the center of that infield is the most important seven yards of soil in the entire field, namely, the pitching mound. In my tenure as a Major League grounds superintendent, it has been my pleasure to visit and assist numerous college, high school, and Minor League field managers. Almost without exception, the pitching mound has been

(Continued - Dream - Page Four)