



Clay Switzer made Honourary Life Member of Sports Turf Association

[On the occasion of the Annual Field day held at London on June 17, 1992, our President, Peter Kleschnitzki had the pleasure of presenting Dr. C.M. (Clay) Switzer with an Honourary Life Membership in the Sports Turf Association. For those who were not present the following is the citation read in making the award].

CLAY SWITZER was raised on a farm near Strathroy, Ont. where he attended high school prior to entering the O.A.C. in 1949. After receiving his BSc. degree in Agriculture and his MSc in Botany, he proceeded to Iowa State to gain his Doctorate in Plant Physiology with emphasis on weed science in 1955. Clay returned to the O.A.C. to become Professor of Botany and to continue his work in weed science, but with emphasis on turf management.

Following a term as Chairman of the Botany Dept., he became

Associate Dean of the O.A.C. in 1971 and Dean in 1972. After 11 years as Dean he moved to Deputy Minister of Agriculture in 1984, a position he held until 1989. Since then he has acted as a consultant to the Federal government and as Special Assistant to the President of the University of Guelph.

As Special Assistant he was primarily responsible for the fund raising programme that resulted in the construction, which is now under way, of the headquarters of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. During his term as Deputy Minister he supported the development of the Institute and the acquisition of land at Guelph on which to develop a new research facility and to construct the headquarters building. Early in his term as Deputy Minister he supported the appointment of Annette Anderson as the turf specialist in the Extension Branch of O.M.A.F.

While Dean of the O.A.C. he also was President of the International Turfgrass Society for four years during which time the Fourth Conference was hosted at Guelph in 1981. This Conference served to elevate Guelph to world recogni-

tion as a centre for turf research and to lay the ground work for the formation of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

During his active research career the emphasis of his work was in the area of weed control in turf and in the chemical control of growth of turf species. Furthermore, he served the weed control industry by acting as Chairman of the Ontario Weed Committee from 1962 to 1983.

Clay has been the recipient of many awards that have recognized his leadership in agriculture and weed science. They include Honourary Degree, Doctor of Laws, Dalhousie University - Alumnus of Honour, University of Guelph - Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and Fellow of Weed Science Society of America.

It is an honour for the Sports Turf Association to recognize this distinguished career by naming C.M. (Clay) Switzer a Honourary Life Member of the Association. It is our sincere wish that Clay will have many more years to serve the industry which is his *raison d'être*.