

ASPA Visits Canada In Force



Officer team for the '73 ASPA program: (l-r) Jack Kidwell, president; Dale Habenicht, vice-president; John Nunes, director; Ted Bosgraph, director; Jerry Brouwer, director; and Charles A. Davis, Jr., treasurer.

U.S. sod producers joined Canadian growers in July at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, for a major field day and tour.

Host for the event, the annual summer meeting of the American Sod Producers Association, was the Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario, with a membership of veteran cultivated sod producers.

Visitors, approximately 300, early in the tour became accustomed to discussions centered on 1000-acre and bigger sod operations. They also found that mechanization of harvesting equipment on a major scale is apparently the norm for this area of Canada. Toronto is probably the sod capital of the world today, in terms of percentage of sod used for new construction, possibly also in total

used per season.

At Beder's Turf Farms Ltd., near Beeton, for example, visitors saw three Brouwer sod harvesters in one field in what proved to be a normal Beder harvesting day. Sod is rolled prior to harvesting and trucks loaded in a pallet operation. Two forklifts were in use to maintain pace with the harvesters.

In a second Beder operation two harvesters worked full time on a muck soil field. Beder reported that muck ranged up to 40 feet in depth.

Other farms visited included the M. Smilsky Farm Ltd. at Cookstown, where special loading and transporting equipment were featured, along with sod harvesting using a Ryan cutter with roller.

A unique trailer design for haul-

ing (rather than towing) a fork lift was demonstrated at the Evans Turf Farm Ltd. at Gormley. This consisted of reinforcing and lowering the rear of a trailer bed and adding fold-down ramps for easy loading of the fork list.

Field demonstrations of sod harvesters proved a key feature of the Canadian event. On hand with demonstrator units were: John Nunes Mechanical Harvesting Co., Patterson, Calif.; Princeton Turf Harvester, Heightstown, N.J.; Beck Manufacturing Co., Auburn, Ala.; and Brouwer Turf Equipment, Ltd., Keswick, Ontario, Canada. Visitors also saw the Brouwer units in production at Brouwer's plant which is located on the farm.

Formal business of the ASPA an-



John Nunes, on tractor, demonstrates his Nunes harvester for growers.



Growers discuss Beck's Big Roll System which combines harvesting and installation.

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Annual summer meeting included election of officers as follows: Jack L. Kidwell, Kidwell Turf Farms, Culpeper, Va., pres.; Dale Habenicht, H & E Sod Farm, Momence, Ill., vice-pres.; Charles A. Davis, Jr., Wharton Turfgrass, Inc., Wharton, Tex., treas.; and new directors, Ted Bosgraph, Bluegrass Sod Farms, Hudsonville, Mich., Jerry Brouwer, Brouwer Turf Equipment, Ltd., Keswick, Ontario, Canada and Davis. Other directors retaining office are John Nunes, Patterson, Calif., William Latta, Kansas City, and Tobias Grether, Carmarillo, Calif., Grether was outgoing president.

Dr. Henry Indyk, New Brunswick, N.J., continues as executive secretary.



Special trailer bed, with lowered and reinforced rear end plus folding ramp, is used by Evans to haul forklift on sod deliveries, Picture at left shows the forklift in loaded position.



New model of Princeton Sod Harvester.



Brouwer Sod Harvester demonstration unit.