

## editorial

Last month we had the pleasure again of attending the summer field days of the American Sod Producers Association. The meeting was headquartered in the rapidly-growing suburban Washington, D.C., area known as New Carrollton, Maryland. And quite a fitting location this turned out to be.

Rolling farmland seemed to be changing into city before our very eyes. And where the road once wiggled along to Baltimore, there was now four-lane, city traffic.

We were returning to our motel in this traffic the first day, after a pleasant tour of sod farms, when our bus seemed to become a moving target for the native automobiles.

"These drivers," our tour guide remarked, "really get to know the territory quickly. They learn how to get to and from work and when they learn how to reach the shopping center, they are old veterans. They may not know their neighbors, but they are already settling in."

It is an appropriate discussion and a rather symbolic setting for the commercial sod production industry. And for all segments of the green industry.

Isn't New Carrollton really a micro-

scopic view of our nation? Rapidly changing, new faces, new buildings and ideas, new problems? Most critical to us all are the changing demands brought to the country and to our industries by the New Carrolltons. To the sod grower . . . to tree care people, to us all . . . this is not only new landscape, it is a new way of life. It is not only a market, but the changes it brings are the reason for the market.

As always, we were pleased to be with sod people on such a delightful and informative occasion. But, more than this, we consider the industry and its leaders to be located quite near the nucleus of the entire turfgrass Industry of the United States. Happily, we can report that the commercial sod production industry is in good health and the potential and prospects frankly are unbelievable. There are problems, of course, and the industry has a growing pain here and there. But we are simply stunned by the unfolding prospects of the decade to come. Fortunately, sod producers have the leadership to march ahead without missing a step.

We are preparing a report on the Maryland convention and field days and will publish it in the September issue of WEEDS TREES and TURF.

## Announcing the new Asplundh "Whisper Chipper" Looks the same—sounds so different!

This new unit has all the dependable features of our famous chipper line. However, there is a remarkable difference — a great reduction in noise. Modification kits will be available for many existing models. **Asplundh Chipper Company, a division of Asplundh Tree Expert Co., 50 E. Hamilton Street, Chalfont, Pa. 18914**

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