

Lawn care list pirate nabbed in St. Louis

The first major reported scam of trying to sell a customer list from a competing lawn care company came to a screeching halt one recent sultry July afternoon in a St. Louis shopping center parking lot.

There, a check for \$10,000, a taped telephone conversation, a gun and a pair of handcuffs spelled the demise of one St. Louis lawn care company employee trying to make a quick buck.

The thought of "easy money" spelled the beginning of the end for "John Doe". Thinking he could cut a deal with a competitor after pirating a large lawn care company customer list, he called Mark Wilson of Lawn Groomer, also in St. Louis, and offered to sell 10,000 names at \$1 each.

After getting the shady offer, Wilson immediately called his boss, Steve Derrick, in Normal, IL. They decided the best course of action was to first determine where the list came from. Then, they planned their strategy and baited a trap.

When Doe contacted Wilson again, a deal was struck to have a sample of the list sent to Lawn Groomer. "When we got the list and saw how large it was, we knew the list had come from either Evergreen or ChemLawn," Wilson told LCI. "We gave the sample to each of them and Evergreen identified it as theirs."

Paul Davarede and Jim Oates of Evergreen and the West County (MO) Sheriff's Dept. then entered the picture. "What you had was a guy trying

to sell a qualified list of prime lawn care prospects," says Davarede, whose major concern was finding the right enforcement group to work with.

Through taped telephone conversations, Evergreen City Manager Jim Oates identified the employee who had tried to sell-out. "It certainly surprised us," Oates said. "He was a production manager at one of our major branches."

Wilson notified Bob Paul of the West County Sheriff's Department that the deal would be set up with one added provision; that Wilson's boss would accompany him to the agreed upon rendezvous because the payoff cashier's check was so large.

Doe agreed and "the sting" was under way.

Doe told Wilson to be at a certain St. Louis shopping center parking lot at a specified time. The perpetrator was not told, however, that Wilson's "boss" would be an undercover policeman, and that there would be a half dozen other plainclothesmen blanketing the parking lot.

At the agreed-upon time, Wilson and his "boss" met and handed over the check in exchange for the list. As soon as the transaction was complete, Doe's rapid apprehension unfolded.

"The cop pulled a gun and stuck it in his head," Wilson recalls.

A few minutes later Doe's accomplice was found in a nearby car. A gun was also found in the car between the seat and door.

The former Evergreen employee has been indicted on a felony charge and was awaiting trial at presstime. By Jerry Roche and Maureen Hrehocik.

INDUSTRY

Deere acquires interest in Bunton

Bunton Company of Louisville and Deere & Company of Moline, IL, have reached an agreement under which Deere acquires a 20 percent interest in Bunton.

Bunton is a privately held firm that has manufactured a line of commercial turf care equipment for more than 30 years. The company is a leading manufacturer of commercial mowers in the 24 to 61-inch range. Deere and Company is the leading manufacturer of lawn and garden tractors.

Under terms of the agreement, two Deere executives have been elected to sit on Bunton's Board of Directors. They are Ronald K. Leonard, Manager, Engineering, of the John Deere Horicon Works in Wisconsin and Mark C. Rostvold, Director of Marketing, Consumer Products for Deere & Co.

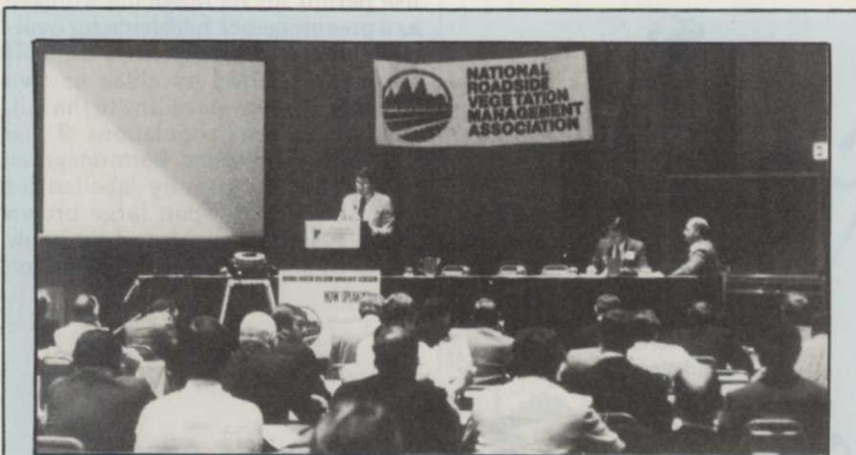
Stan Byers, president of Bunton said, "We believe both companies can contribute equally to joint engineering projects. Deere's investment demonstrates the commitment of both companies to design and develop commercial mowing machines that will enhance the reputation each company enjoys for high quality."

HERBICIDES

Scott launches latest preemerg turf herbicide

O.M. Scott has received the first label for turf of American Cyanamid's pendimethalin (Prowl). Tech reps from the Marysville, OH, firm are taking orders for the new herbicide, named Turf Weedgrass Control, which controls crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail, barnyardgrass and seven sprouting broadleaf weeds. The new product applied in late summer to early fall will prevent the emergence of annual bluegrass. Bentgrass is also sensitive to the herbicide.

Marketing manager Roger Farrington said cool-season and warm-season versions of the product will be sold. "Scotts will continue to offer



New Association Formed

Managers of state and federal roadside weed control programs shared their concerns at a conference in Kansas City in October. The National Roadside Vegetation Management Association was formed at the meeting that was attended by more than 200. Yearly conferences have been planned.

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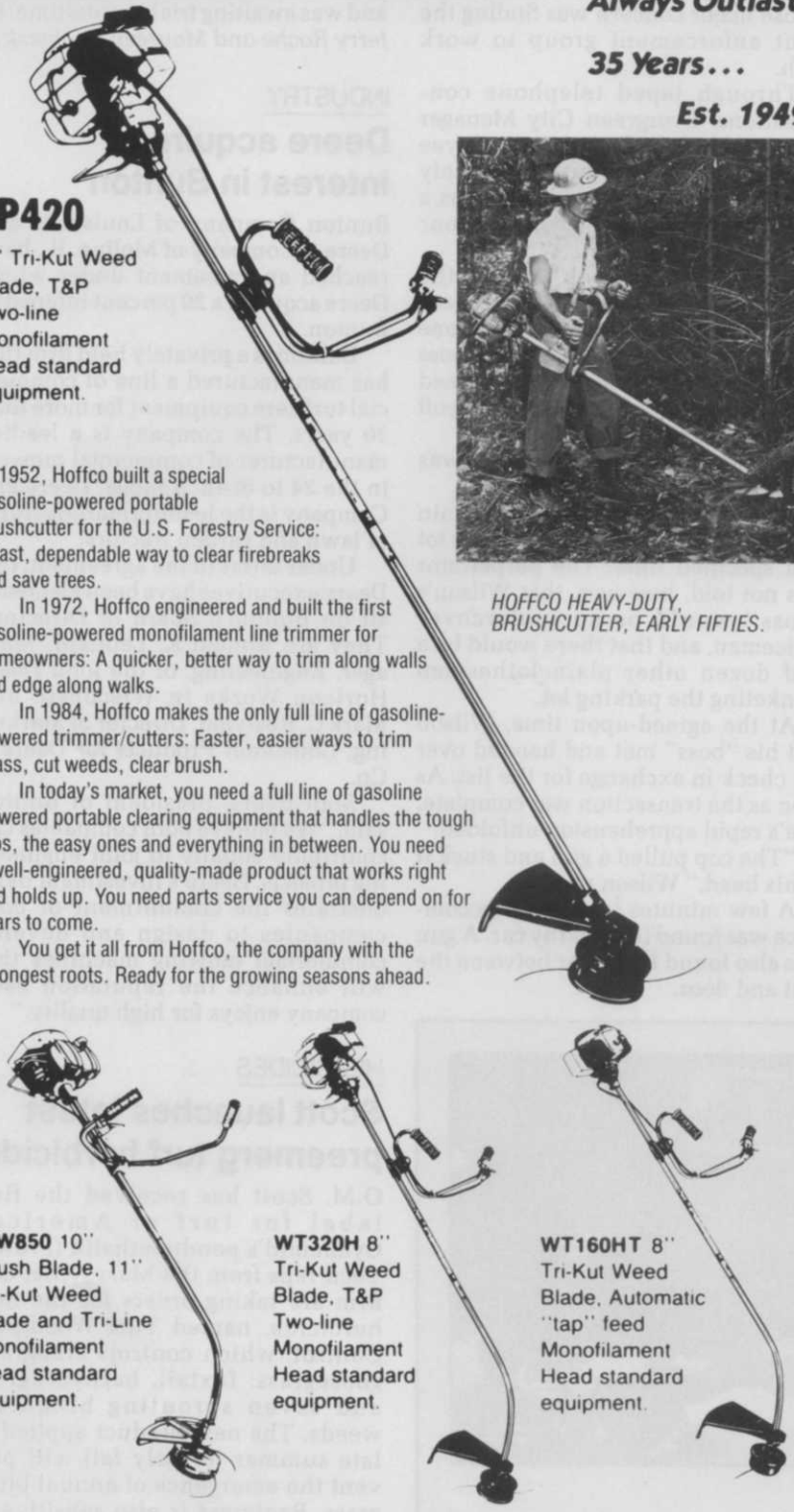
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products containing other pre-emergence herbicides as it has for years."

This is the fifth new product for Scotts recently, including a granular pythium fungicide, a fluid fungicide, a high potassium fertilizer, and a rotary spreader.

HERBICIDES

Dow's broad spectrum herbicide gets label

Turflon-D, a combination of 2,4-D and triclopyr (Garlon), is now available to turf managers from Dow distributors. The new product is effective on the primary and difficult-to-control weeds, such as oxalis, wild violet, ground ivy, spurge and veronica, in cool-season turf.

Dow says the liquid mixes well with liquid fertilizers and other turf chemicals. Product sales manager Vince Geiger says Turflon-D is 'quite immobile in soil', lessening the chance for root uptake by ornamentals and trees. It is a low volatile ester formulation with no evidence of plant damage due to volatility during tests. Application to off-target plants and drift should be prevented.

CHEMICALS

Rubigan receives label for poa control in South

Elanco has received an experimental use permit for its fungicide Rubigan as a preemergence herbicide for overseeded warm-season turf on golf courses. Applied as close as two weeks prior to overseeding in the fall, Rubigan reduces populations of *Poa annua* in overseeded Bermudagrass.

Rubigan is currently labelled for control of dollar spot, large brown patch, fusarium blight, and the snow molds in both warm-and cool-season turf.

CHEMICALS

Cyanamid's Arsenal gets conditional label

American Cyanamid's Charles Galley recently sent a telegram to trade magazine editors announcing the conditional registration of Arsenal by EPA.



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ORNAMENTALS

Winter damaged plants remain weak into fall

The winter of 1983/84 continues to take its toll on landscape plants across the country. Ohio State University Extension Specialist Elton Smith has warned state landscapers that winter damage combined with prolonged dry weather has weakened many plants to the danger point.

The weakened condition of many plants makes them more susceptible to damage from insects, disease, and soil nutrient deficiencies. Resistance to and recovery from these normal enemies is greatly reduced.

Smith advises special attention to fertilization, mulching, and irrigation this fall, in addition to winter protection methods. Smith says plants should receive no less than one inch of water every ten days. The bottom line is the root system of weakened plants have not adequately regenerated over the summer and fall and special precautions are necessary to help them survive the stress of winter.

TURF VEHICLES

Heald kit firm sold to Bear Ind.

Don Rupley has sold his major interest in Heald Inc., a manufacturer of turf vehicle kits, to Bear Industries of Downers Grove, IL, a holding company with farm equipment related companies.

Former Mott president Mitchell Blayney, is now president of Bear. Rupley will remain president of Heald as a division of Bear. Heald will continue with design, manufacturing and packaging of vehicular kit products, but will also assemble.

LEGISLATION

3PF sues Waucanda to block model law

In the eyes of many commercial pesticide applicators a time bomb is ticking in Waucanda, IL. That city passed a law this year requiring posting of areas sprayed by commercial applicators. This particular legislation is being used as a model in hearings for local pesticide legislation across the country.

To lawn care companies and arborists, Waucanda is a ghost town since few care to operate under the ordinance. That is their decision. But,

the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation, a lobbying organization for commercial pesticide applicators, is suing the city in an attempt to make the law an example in their favor instead of a law used to spread legislation across the U.S.

David Dietz, director of 3PF, claims Waucanda is leading the way to Federal legislation this spring. "We expect to see son of Harper's Ferry plus a lot of nieces and nephews, in Congress this spring." Harper's Ferry bill, called an environmentalist's want list, failed to pass Congress last session.

3PF is suing on three counts. First, the city overstepped its bounds since authority for pesticide legislation rests solely with state and Federal authorities. Secondly, the law discriminates against lawn care companies and arborists, without including agriculture or homeowner pesticide users. Finally, the Interstate Commerce Commission is evaluating the impact of the law on interstate commerce.

The suit was filed in mid-September. Waucanda had 30 days to respond. The response will be published in December *Weeds Trees & Turf*.

PLANTS

Software package lists 800 shrubs

Ortho Information Services, a leading publisher of how-to gardening books, is introducing a new computer software package listing more than 800 shrubs and flowering plants organized according to growing zones.

A spokesman for the company said by entering the zip code of your area, a person can automatically access only those plants that can be grown in the specific region.

The software comes with a book, *Gardening Techniques*, a 192-page expanded version of the standard titles in the Ortho paperback line. The entire "Ortho's Computerized Gardening" software package will retail for about \$49.95. It is compatible with Apple II Series, Apple Macintosh, IBM PC and Commodore 64.

ASSOCIATIONS

PGMS hires Shulder as full-time director

The board of the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS)

voted in October to hire a full-time executive director and named current part-time director Allan Shulder to the post. Shulder's contract begins January 1, 1985.

PGMS has been seeking applications for full-time director since its last annual meeting.

Michael Keating, chairman of the 1984 conference in Worcester, MA, told *Weeds Trees & Turf*, "Allan was restricted by his full-time job (as landscape maintenance director for a suburban Baltimore Hospital) and the board felt we needed a full-time director to realize the full potential of the organization. Since Allan knows the association better than anyone else and is already active in the Landscape Industry Association Council (LIAC), we budgeted the funds to enable him to go full-time."

The PGMS board set a goal of 1,500 members within two years, from its current 1,100. They discussed combining trade shows with another industry association and beefing up member services. More than 250 members attended the Worcester show which featured key speakers and tours to nearby historical sites.

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EDUCATION

WSNA deals out \$5600 in scholarship funds

The Washington State Nurserymen's Association (WSNA) recently awarded eight students in horticulture, landscape architecture, and related fields a total of \$5,600 in scholarships and research grants for this school year.

Stephen Mark Nordeen, a Washington certified nurseryman and employee of Edmonds Garden Center, Daniel Ray Snipes, a horticulture student, Mary E. Auld, a third year landscape architecture student, and Elaine Montague, in her final year of horticulture and business studies, all received \$800 scholarships. Nordeen attends Western Washington University, Mary Auld the University of Washington, and Snipes and Miss Montague Washington State.

The latest recipient of the WSNA Northwest Chapter's Jim Brown Memorial Scholarship (established in honor of Jim Brown, the blind founder of Wayfarer Nursery, who died in 1978) is David M. Hulings, a student at Edmonds Community College.

Receiving \$300 scholarships were Nancy Sakagami and Steve Swartz,



For a job well done

Jon Loft, chairman of Lofts Inc., presents a check for \$65,232.26 to Rutgers University representing the royalties on the 1983 harvested turfgrass seed developed by that university, including RAM I and Mystic Kentucky bluegrasses, and five perennial ryegrasses—Palmer, Repell, Diplomat, Yorktown, and Yorktown II. Loft credited the unusually high royalties to the increased demand for high-quality turfgrasses. Pictured with Loft (l to r) are Dr. R. Hurley of Lofts, and Drs. H. Indyk, R. Duell, C. Reed Funk, L.A. Douglas, and R. Engel all of Rutgers.

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both of South Seattle Community College, and Roger D. Anderson at Clark College.

AWARD

Dow's Chapman honored for articles

Douglas J. Chapman, horticulturist-administrator at Dow Gardens and a

member of the *Weeds Trees & Turf* editorial board, picked up the Author's Citation for 1984 from the International Society of Arboriculture at a recent meeting at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, Quebec.

During the past three years Chapman has had articles published in numerous scientific and commodity publications, including: *International*

Society of Arboriculture, International Plant Propagators Society, American Nurseryman, Weeds Trees & Turf, American Horticulture Society, Purdue University, American Society for Horticulture Scientists, and Arborists Journal.

The articles have dealt with some of the research conducted at Dow Gardens, Midland, MI, in the areas of propagation, provenance, plant adaptation, new plant introductions, and integrated plant management.

Chapman has been at the Dow Gardens since March 1975 with his main research concentrating on the development, propagation, and introduction of new woody ornamental trees and shrubs in the Great Lakes region.

ASSOCIATIONS

ASPA midwinter confab slated for Disney World

The Contemporary Hotel on the Walt Disney World Complex, just outside of Orlando, FL, is the site of the American Sod Producers Association's (ASPA) 1985 Midwinter Conference, and ASPA officials caution that early hotel reservations will be necessary because of the popularity of the hotel. The room reservation deadline is Dec. 16, which is 45 days prior to the actual meeting set for Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

In a related matter, the ASPA five-point code of ethics is being distributed to members in plaque form.



The broad-ranging code was approved by the organization's 13-member board of trustees earlier this year and was introduced in plaque form during the summer convention and field days.

Inquiries concerning the midwinter conference and the plaque can be directed to ASPA offices, 4415 West Harrison, Hillside, IL 60162, or phone (312) 449-2890.

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UPDATE

Supreme Court asked to hear Bureau of Land Management ban

As reported in the August issue, the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (3PF) has pinpointed a spraying ban on land in Oregon and Washington managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as "the most significant pesticide issue confronting the Green Industry". This dispute over "worst case" analysis prior to spraying, has stopped all contract spraying in these areas and threatens to stop spraying in other BLM areas.

The Department of Justice has asked the Supreme Court to review a Circuit Appeals Court ruling supporting the worst case procedure, since it is a matter of conflicting pesticide regulations.

The original ban was achieved in a suit by the Southern Oregon Citizens Against Toxic Sprays, Inc. They won the case through the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Court ruling in favor of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) over FIFRA. NEPA uses worst case analysis while FIFRA uses risk versus benefit analysis for approving pesticide use.

EPA to tighten label regulations on bird killing granulars, advertising

Wildlife consumption of granular pesticides and advertising claims will face greater regulation under new amendments to FIFRA proposed by EPA.

Certain granular pesticides have allegedly been toxic to feeding birds and other wildlife. These products would carry a restricted use classification.

EPA also wants to police advertising of restricted use pesticides. The proposal would probably be similar to Food and Drug Administration regulations focusing on claims of use, efficacy, and safety.

More restricted use training likely

EPA's Administrator's Pesticide Advisory Committee is hitting the question of direct supervision of restricted use pesticide applicators hard. Members of the Committee range in opinion from "on site" supervision to extra training, but not necessarily certification.

One member called direct supervision "impractical", recommending varying levels of training for different pesticide classifications instead. The representative from the National Campaign Against Misuse of Pesticides claimed certification was no more difficult than taking a driver's licence examination.

DISTRIBUTORS

Lesco goes public, plans open house

More than 600,000 shares of Lesco, Inc. (formerly Lakeshore Equipment and Supply Company) stock became available for purchase August 29, at an initial price of \$11 per share.

The public offering has been expected since last fall when the national distributor of landscape and golf course supplies occupied new headquarters in Rocky River, OH.

Persons desiring a prospectus for the common shares of Lesco Inc. should contact MacDonald & Company Securities, 2100 Central National Bank, Cleveland, OH 44114.

The colonial-style headquarters building has been completely renovated and an open house has been scheduled for November 29, 1984.

Those interested in attending the open house, which is open to everyone working in the Green Industry, should contact Barbara Betz, Lesco, Inc., 20005 Lake Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116. (216) 333-9250.

TREES

Shigo warns effects of improper pruning

Poor pruning is one of the number one culprits of injury to trees, according to Dr. Alex Shigo of the USDA Forest Service, Durham, New Hampshire.

Shigo, one of the key speakers at this year's Professional Grounds Management Society annual conference in Worcester, MA, in October, told a packed room of professional grounds managers that neglect, poor care, and poor pruning are a tree's worst enemies.

"Nature does everything short of putting blinking lights on how a tree should be pruned," he said. "Nature comes with a set of instructions that are seldom heeded."

Shigo, one of the foremost plant pathologists in the country and a frequent international tree consultant, drove home the idea that a tree is a "compartmentalized" organism with many "boundaries."

"There is absolutely no way a tree can heal a wound," explained Shigo. "They set boundaries around the infected tissue that compartmentalizes it, but doesn't heal it."

Shigo passed out brochures on proper tree pruning at the conference. Additional copies can be secured by writing the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 370 Reed Road, Broomall, PA 19008.