

Landscaping giant John Moulder dies

GLENDALE, Calif. — John Moulder, who perhaps more than any one person took landscape construction in California from pick-and-shovel to organized business, died June 9 at Glendale Memorial Hospital.

He was 81.

In an exclusive interview with *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine two years ago, the landscape trailblazer revealed his secrets of success:

"Just doing good work isn't the answer," he told LM. "You have to think in terms of business. Many people go broke doing good jobs ...you can't have a boom one year and sit back and rest the next."

John and his brother Paul founded Moulder Brothers Landscaping way back in 1937. By the company's 50th anniversary year, it had been built into a \$20 million a year business, making it one of the biggest in Southern California — as well as the oldest.

Over the years, the Moulder Brothers touch has been brought to such diversified projects as Dodger Stadium, Disneyland's Bear Country, the Music Center, Sea World of Florida, large chunks of freeway systems and literally scores of parks, golf courses and other recreational facilities.

Moulder went into semi-retirement last year. "The planning has all been done for an orderly transition," Moulder told LM in the 1987 interview.

Moulder formed Earthmark Industries in 1987 and Moulder Brothers became a wholly-owned subsidiary. This would later facilitate a plan he had worked on for years whereby employees might be given an oppor-



JOHN MOULDER: 1907-1989

tunity to purchase stock and, in time, to become owners of the company.

Duane Barlett is president of Earthmark Industries. "The John Moulder stamp will be on the company well into our second 50 years," says Barlett, adding, "and I suspect there will be John Moulder overtones somewhere when we celebrate our centennial."

Moulder was also active in the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA). "He was a dominant force in the association for many years," says CLCA executive director Sharon McGuire. "His leadership qualities and gusto made him a real gem in the industry."

Moulder was CLCA president in 1955. He became its first Sustaining Member in 1977 and a Life Member in 1981.

John Moulder is survived by his wife Claudine. Donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society. □

ATHLETIC TURF

Ohio State gridders will go back to natural grass

The move to natural turf by some major college and professional stadiums continues. Most notable of late is the decision by Ohio State University officials to install natural grass after the 1989 football season.

OSU officials decided in early June to make the switch. However, it's not yet known whether the field will be sodded or seeded.

Dr. Bill Pound, Dr. John Street and Dr. Karl Dannenberger, OSU turfgrass specialists, have met with college officials to offer their advice on which systems to incorporate into the new field.

"At this point, the only decision that has been confirmed is that they are going to natural grass," says Pound, though university officials are leaning toward seed. Pound says he and his associates believe sod is the best way to establish a 100 percent bluegrass field and avoid ryegrass conversion caused by overseeding.



Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City may also soon become a natural turf site in preparation for the 1994 World Cup Soccer tournament. George Toma reports that the decision will not be made until 1992. About 12 U.S. stadiums will play host to the games.

Toma spiffs up Japan

George Toma, grounds manager for the Kansas City Royals, was in Japan recently to check out the two practice fields which will be used by the Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers. The two teams play a National Football League exhibition game on Oct. 6 in the Tokyo Dome (which, by the way, is artificial turf). The practice fields are natural turf. Toma says one was resodded with Tifton 328 bermudagrass, the other with Japanese bermuda overseeded with common bermuda.

For more information...

To learn more about sports turf management, write the Sports Turf Managers Association at 400 N. Mountain Ave., Suite 301, Upland, CA 91786 or phone (714) 981-9199.