

Setting standards

GREENSBORO, N.C. — On this hot May day, there's more action going on outside the University of North Carolina Greensboro's Physical Activities Complex than there is within. The students left last week, while the construction crews remain, putting the finishing touches on the landscape of the new \$15.7 million building.

Therein lies the problem.

Apparently operators of the contractor's large equipment have damaged four large, stately oaks adjacent to the building. The obliterated grade, excessive compaction, slit roots and chipped bark on the trees is serious enough to kill them.

Chris Fay knows this, and he's concerned.

"Look at the soil piled up along the base of this tree here," says Fay, pointing to the trunk of a 50-foot, doomed royal oak. "What happened to the original grade here?"

Fay, 31, has been superintendent of the grounds on this campus for a little more than one year. He joined the UNCG crew as a groundskeeper a decade ago. During his rise through the ranks, he has held just about every job in the department. He has also seen some beautiful trees laid to waste by harried contractors. Now that he has the authority, it's a sight that will no longer be tolerated.

Fay has armed the university with a nine-page *Tree Protection Standard*, which he authored, that details the lengths contractors must take to prevent injury to the thousands of beautiful trees that create the serene atmosphere students and university personnel enjoy here.

"People don't realize what happens to these trees after the job is finished. These trees will be here for maybe another five years. Then, all of a sudden, there they go," says Fay, snapping his fingers. "It has taken people a long time to realize that it's the damage done now, during construction, that is killing them."

Fay's Standard calls for construction crews to set up barriers around a tree's drip lines. There are specifications for excavation, grading and fertilization. Even the designer's role is outlined: "It shall be the designer's full responsibility to insure that the contractor complies with the spirit and intent of this standard throughout the construction project." In addition, Fay photographs trees before, during and after a construction crew has gone

to work near it.

Because the Standard is so new, Fay hasn't attempted to enforce it yet. Still, he feels it is only a matter of time.

"I'm the guy that has to live with this after they're gone," he says, looking out across the landscape of the complex. Sometimes you've got to get downright ugly with people before they do the right thing. I say that if you can't go full speed ahead in protecting the tree—if you're going to end up changing the grade around its base, cutting extensively around the roots—take the tree down and put a new one in."

If you're a tree on this campus,



Chris Fay

Fay's action on your behalf couldn't have come at a better time. UNC Greensboro is embarking on a massive facelift, spending more than \$53 million on new buildings, improved athletic fields and the removal of several campus streets, which will be replaced by turfed areas. Construction crews will be a familiar sight on campus well into the 1990s.

—Will Perry

Where's the water?



Tom Mann

EAGAN, Minn. — Meanwhile, out in the upper Midwest where they still hadn't had much water this spring, Tom Mann of The Caretakers is bemoaning the market.

"There's going to be a lot of fallout from the drought this year and next," he says. "We're really minus on rain, and the 30-day forecast calls for us to remain dry."

Mann escorted reporters around parts of suburban Minneapolis/St. Paul, where dead and dying grass and trees were evident.

As a matter of fact, The Caretakers put a good bit of change in the coffers last fall by hauling water from Eagan (which is supplied by an aquifer) to other less fortunate suburbs. "Most of our properties are irrigated, so we spent last June 15th to August 21st hauling water," Mann notes.

Yet, competition is changing rapidly with the addition of a new I-494 bridge linking the fastest-growing suburbs of the Twin Cities.

Eagan's growth itself is attributable to the nearby international airport. "We've got lots of corporate headquarters around here, yet it's get-

ting tougher all the time," says Mann, a former president of the Minnesota Professional Lawn Care Association. "When the bridge opened, that meant a lot of competitors came marching into the area."

He says that dealing with problems associated with the lawn care/landscape business are sometimes discouraging, despite having strictly corporate accounts.

"We feel we function best with a corporate-type client," he says. "The client needs the help. Plus, you have a height of flexibility."

What is the main ingredient still missing from Minnesota landscapes? Color.

"We're basically green on brown. Sophisticated landscapes are a rare bird around here. We sorely need a few companies to add color to their environments.

And when that time comes, The Caretakers will be there.

—Jerry Roche

Using the ballfields

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Not far from Mann's operation lies the quiet yet thriving community of Eden Prairie. And because this, too, is a fast-growing area, John Skranka, landscape manager for the entire school system, has his hands full: 240 acres, eight building sites, eight soccer fields, four football fields, three baseball fields and four softball fields.

But he's got an ace in the hole:

Eden Prairie park supervisor Wes Dunsmore.

"We work closely together," notes Skranka. "We borrow his equipment, he borrows ours. We do a lot of sharing ideas and probably see each other a few times a week."

Skranka also has another ace: he's a member of the city's volunteer fire



John Skranka

department. And that means that when he needs a basket truck for off-the-ground work, one is available.

Because of the fast-growing area, money for new projects is not hard to come by.

"We're going to open up another school and have a ground-breaking on another," says Skranka. "We're remodeling the high school and putting in a new varsity football field."

But talk about your high-traffic areas—Eden Prairie's got them!

"Right now, the city's big on soccer," Skranka relates. "So we're letting them use six fields at the high school. Those fields are used two hours a night, six to 10 hours a week. The other ones at the high school are used another four hours a day."

"We have a problem scheduling seeding. We're going to pull two fields out of use when school's out for seeding."

Since one of the new schools is going up on the former site of Northrup-King Seed Co. test plots, he still gets consultation from people there. He uses Northrup-King Athletic Pro seed mix for most of the fields with Par-Ex fertilizer.

Skranka also swears by a new John Deere AMT-600 utility vehicle that supplements Jacobsen and Gravely mowers. Irrigation equipment (all fields are irrigated) is mostly Toro with some Buckner and Hunter.

"We're a lucky-type district because we're growing," Skranka, a 14-year veteran admits. "If we weren't, it'd be a lot harder to get the equipment and sprinklers."

—Jerry Roche

Jacklin Seed Co. has named **Wade Blowers** research assistant of the warm-season grass seed breeding pro-

grams. He will also be involved with production research.

Henry Donselman, Ph.D., has been named vice president, director of research of Rancho Soledad Nurseries, Inc. He will oversee new research and development in plant production, coordinate the acquisition and testing of new ornamental plants, work closely with Ranch Tissue Technologies (the nursery's tissue culture division), oversee the production of palms and other tropicals in Hawaii at Palms of Paradise (the nursery's tropical interior plant nursery) and be available for consulting in landscape and interior landscape installations.

The first five inductees to the National Landscape Association's Hall of Fame are: **Dr. J. Franklin Styer**, former owner of J. Franklin Styer Nurseries, Concordville, Pa., **Harold**



W. Blowers



M. Hill

Hunzicker, of Hunzicker's, Inc., **Wellington Kennedy**, of The Kennedy Nursery, Inc., **Dr. Richard P. White**, former executive secretary of the American Association of Nurserymen and **Dr. L.C. Chadwick**, author of the association's Landscape Newsletter in 1945 and 1946.

Mark W. Beliczky has been named director of marketing at Lesco, Inc. Beliczky was formerly associated with ChemLawn Inc.

One of the nation's first interior landscape contractors, **Robert Her- rick Carter**, recently died of cancer. He was 69.

Carter, former owner of Van Her- ricks Environmental Planting from 1946 to 1987, is credited with pioneering the use of flowering plants and trees in commercial developments in southern California in the mid 1940s. Carter is survived by his son, Robert, daughters Nancy and Catherine and two grandchildren.

Riverdale Chemical Company's new regional sales manager is **Lonnie M. Pell**. Pell will be responsible for the company's sales activities in the southeastern portion of the United States.

Martha Hill, landscape technology instructor for Hinds Community Col- lege in Raymond, Mississippi, was in-

stalled as president of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The Nebraska Turfgrass Foundation elected new officer and directors at its recent conference. The re-elected officers include **Larry Hergott**, president, **Hans Bross**, vice president, and **Twyla Hansen**, secretary-treasurer.



S. Rom



J. Kelly

Newly-elected board members are **Steve Paustian**, **Hans Bross** and **Carlos Stimson**.

The new executive vice president of operations for Chapel Valley Land- scape Company is **Stewart Rom**. Rom is the newly-elected president of the Landscape Contractors Association for Baltimore, Washington, DC, and northern Virginia. Also promoted were **Paul Drummond** to manager of business development, **Bruce Phillips** to Virginia landscape department manager and **Charles Whealton** to Maryland maintenance department manager.

Clemson University Extension Service horticulturist **John Kelly** has been honored by two horticultural organizations.

The American Society for Horticul- tural Science recognized him as an outstanding young educator and the South Carolina Nurserymen's As- sociation presented him with an award for outstanding service to the state's nursery industry.

Ken Jenner, co-founder and third executive director of the California Landscape Contractors Association, died Jan. 29 in California. He was 83.

Jenner began in the landscaping in- dustry in the 1940s and participated in the organizational committee that cre- ated the CLCA in 1951. As the groups part time executive secretary, Jenner's first budget was under \$2,000. When he retired in 1972, CLCA had a budget of nearly \$250,000.

During his tenure, CLCA established its Trophy Awards program, offering health insurance to members, launched a public relations program, opened a sec- ond office in southern California and published the book *Landscape Manage- ment* by James W. Griffin. Jenner is sur- vived by his wife Betty, daughter Joan Rowles, grandson Michael Sewell and brother Theodore H. LM