

# NEWS BRIEFS

**DUDECK'S A GRANDDAD...**LM editorial advisor **Dr. A.E. Dudeck** (University of Florida) became a grandfather on Oct. 5th. Daughter Kathy Collart gave birth to Timothy Collart at 9:31 a.m. Dudeck says that waiting in the delivery room with son-in-law Dave, "brought back memories of 30 years ago; I felt like an expectant father again." Congratulations to the Dudeck family.

**PROMOTING SAFETY...**A new "ALCA Supervisor's Safety Handbook" is available from the Associated Landscape Contractors of America. The book covers safety policies, meetings, proper clothing, general first-aid, equipment certification, material handling and (are you listening?) chemical safety. The book is available to members for \$4; non-members can get it for \$20 (maybe it's time you joined...?). Contact ALCA at (703) 241-4004; order by fax at (703) 532-0463.

**TAKING CHARGE...**Harold Vaubel has been hired by Signal Landmark as golf course superintendent for Eagle Crest Country Club, now under construction in the hills of Escondido, Calif.

**IN COLLEGE, IN BUSINESS...**Word comes from Centerville, Ohio, about the business success of **Martin Grunder**, a college student who operates a thriving landscaping business. Grunder, a senior finance major at the University of Dayton, cleared \$300,000 in gross sales last summer. "I've operated my own business since I was in seventh grade," says Grunder, who began his business career as a grass cutter. Today, he employs about 10 workers. "The darn phone is ringing off the hook," Grunder says.

**SPEAKING OF GETTING CLIPPED...**Calgene Pacific of Melbourne, Australia, is nearing completion in the breeding of a blue rose. Latest research was to isolate the gene that makes other flowers blue. The blue hue is to be transferred into roses, gerberas, carnations and chrysanthemums. But does Calgene really think, as reported, that a blue rose will fetch \$100 per stem? Wake up and smell the roses! A Japanese firm has invested \$5 million into Calgene's other gene research that seeks to produce flowers that last longer in the vase. What might those cost?

## PEOPLE

# 'Dad' Gill passes away in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin  
Harry Gill, a founder of the Sports Turf Managers Association and a friend to every athletic turf manager who ever raked an infield, died here of natural causes on Oct. 25.

"His passing represents a great loss to us individually and as an organization," notes Dale Keller Jr., executive director of the STMA. "Under his guiding hand, the association grew in membership and stature. Harry dedicated his life to making it a strong group with a main purpose to educate sports turf managers."

Gill, 69, was planning to retire on Nov. 1.

For the last 16 years of his life, Gill was superintendent of grounds and maintenance for the Milwaukee Brewers at County Stadium here and at Compadre Stadium in Chandler, Ariz. During those final 16 years, he won virtually every major turf award, including Sports Turf magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1990.

A press release from the Brewers aptly notes:

"To the Milwaukee Brewers, his friends and family, Harry Gill will be remembered affectionately as 'Dad,' a warm reception he often used when greeting someone he knew.

"Gill was soft-spoken, but was always able to captivate an audience, whether it was addressing a couple hundred at a convention or a couple in the Brewers' front office. A good-natured, friendly individual, he always found time to share a humorous tale with someone, usually leaving him with a smile. That's what made Harry Gill the king of the hill."

Gill was especially fond in recent years of telling audiences about his experience during the filming of "Major League" at County Stadium, and about his one-on-one conversations with



**HARRY C. GILL**  
1921-1990

such baseball notables as Henry Aaron.

As a tribute to his leadership, the Harry Gill Turf Scholarship was established in 1987 through the STMA.

Prior to joining the Brewers (where former assistant Gary Vanden Berg becomes his successor), the Milwaukee native was a groundskeeper and facilities director of a 45-hole golf course and 700-seat restaurant in Rockford, Ill.

Mary, his wife of 40 years, has requested that donations be made to the Gill Scholarship Fund or the local heart/diabetes funds or needy food programs.

—Jerry Roche □

## WATER

### Districts sign to save water

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Two Southern California water districts recently signed an agreement which will ease the drain on that region's evaporating water supply.

The Irrigation Association reports that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will pay the Imperial Irrigation

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# Illinois wetlands are facing extinction

ST. CHARLES, Ill. — The once-thriving Illinois prairie wetland is now a drop in the bucket, and a concerned landscape architect has taken steps to preserve what little remains.

"Nearly 90 percent of the wetlands that characterized the Illinois landscape when the earliest settlers arrived...are now gone," says Greg Stevens,

senior landscape architect/project manager with The Lannert Group here.

According to Stevens, widespread drainage and development are the two biggest causes of shrinking wetlands, which are now recognized more as vital and important ecological systems.

But controversy has arisen over what today con-

stitutes a wetland.

"Because it is impossible and ill-advised to completely stop development," says Stevens, "we have to find some better way to distinguish between those wetlands that should be preserved and those that add nothing tangible to the environment."

It is in education that Stevens says landscape ar-

chitects can play a useful role.

The government wildlife department describes wetland as having:

- hydrophytic vegetation, or plants typically found in wetland and other aquatic habitats;

- hydric soil, which is saturated, flooded or ponded during the growing

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District about \$97 million to build conservation facilities in the agricultural district, and another \$23 million for indirect costs over the program's first five years. Another \$2.6 million will be paid annually to cover the Imperial Irrigation District's direct cost of the program.

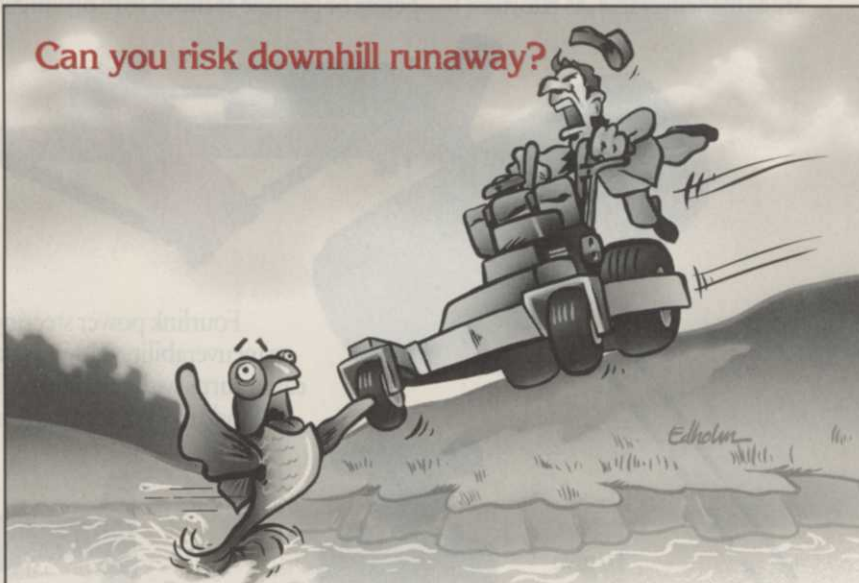
Under the program, Metropolitan will finance 16 conservation projects in the Imperial Valley and, in turn, will receive an estimated 106,100 acre-feet of water per year that would be saved.

The projects include automated control structures, concrete lining of earthen irrigation canals and new reservoirs. The conserved water will remain in the Colorado River and be available for Metropolitan to import into its service area through its Colorado River Aquaduct.

Metropolitan provides water service to more than 14.7 million Southern Californians in six counties. Imperial delivers water from the Colorado River to agricultural users or about 500,000 acres farmland, in the fertile Imperial Valley.

According to Carl Boronkay, general manager of Metropolitan, "Implementation of this landmark water conservation endeavor between the farmers in the Imperial Valley and urban Southern California exemplifies the growing role water management and conservation will play in meeting (our) future water needs." □

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