

## CONVENTIONS

### Barbara Mandrell to visit Expo '90

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Country rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Mandrell, one of the nation's most popular and dynamic performers, will entertain visitors to the International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo here this summer.

Mandrell has received nine People's Choice Awards, including six consecutive as "Favorite All-Around Female Entertainer." The petite songstress is a show business veteran of 29 years with such hits as "Midnight Oil" and "If Loving You Is Wrong (I Don't Want to Be Right)."

Her concert is scheduled for Monday, July 30 at the Commonwealth Convention Center in downtown Louisville. The "Expo Evening Starring Barbara Mandrell" will include a buffet dinner. Cash bars will open



Barbara Mandrell

at 6 p.m. and Mandrell will perform at 8 p.m. Free transportation will be provided between several convention hotels and the dinner show.

Tickets cost \$30 each for dinner and the show. They may be ordered through the Expo advance registration brochure, which will be available in April by calling (800) 558-8767.

The ILPGE Expo '90 for dealers, distributors and others involved in the landscape industry will be held July 29-31. □

## ATHLETIC TURF

### Penn State coach gives turf managers new name

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. — Athletic turf managers in search of a title need look no further, thanks to retired Penn State University soccer coach Walter Bahr.

Bahr, father of two National Football League placekickers, surveyed attendees at the Eastern Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference, asking what to call the audience. He decided on "SOLMAD," the acronym for "Superintendent Of Landscape Management And Development."

"I always thought you just had a guy out there who cuts the grass that you called 'Charlie' or something like that," he admitted.

Bahr offered a coach's perspective on turf management, saying that his first choice of surface as a coach and player is natural turf. His least favorite surface is Astro turf.

"My objection to Astro turf is that it always hurt. Even to walk on it hurt you," said Bahr. "When we used to have to play a game on Astro turf we never practiced on it the day before because you'd always wind up getting a couple of kids hurt before a game."

Bahr said he agrees totally with former Philadelphia Phillies slugger Richie Allen who quipped, "If horses won't eat it, I don't want to play on it."

Bahr said he'd rather have a dirt field void of grass than to play on the synthetic Astro turf surface. "So anything a 'SOLMAD' does to take care of the field is okay with me."

### Santa Anita turf too fast?

The new turf track recently installed at the Santa Anita race track is causing consternation among managers there. The hybrid Bermuda grass with an interlocking mesh element is resulting in faster times. Should records posted on the new track replace old records, or be given a new category? Ray Rogers, general manager for the Oak Tree group of horses, trainer Bruce Headley and racing expert Jim Quinn are in favor of new categories. Cliff Goodrich, president of Santa Anita, is not. Goodrich says the track has been changed before, and new times were always compared with existing times. Jockeys say the horses don't seem to get as tired on the new turf.

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