

LM GRAPEVINE

mph on impact. Marilyn broke an ankle. She's back to work as an x-ray technician, but Doug's still disabled with a full-leg cast. He's probably facing more surgery, and won't be mobile until June or July 1994.

This is finally the part where some good things finally start happening for the Doug Tyrrells.

A few of days after the accident, at the Iowa State Turfgrass Field Day, Mona Bond of the Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association (IPLCA) told other lawn pros about the mishap. Pretty soon offers to help started coming in, says Doug, a founding member.

"Three companies donated a truck, a man and product, and came up here and did my mid-summer applications," he says. "In fact, I had calls from people from four hours away asking if they can help."

Then, in the fall, another operator sent three trucks, applicators and equipment and helped complete Doug's season for him.

Marilyn and college-age daughter Sharon did all they could to keep the business going, too. In fact, Sharon mowed until she had to return to nursing school in Des Moines. Then Doug's father helped out.

Tyrrell will not be able to do much lawn work starting the 1994 season, although he hopes to be off crutches sometime in March. But fellow lawn care operators—even competitors—keep offering support.

"I've had several operators tell me to figure out what we need to do and they'll help us figure out how to do it," he says. "Everybody's been a great help."

As for himself?

He's hoping to be able to work again early this summer. "Cranking out a few lawns is going to be pretty good therapy," says Doug.

He also says he's considering becoming a motorcycle safety instructor.

—Ron Hall

NEXT MONTH:

**Early-season
turf fertilization**

**LM Reports
on dethatchers**

The artificial turf in Philadelphia Eagles' Veterans Stadium is "unsafe," says turf consultant **George Toma**. According to an item in *USA Today* that was brought to **LM's** attention, Eagles owner Norman Braman asked Toma to take a look at conditions on the five-year-old turf. Toma said the fake field had been neglected. "There is so much dirt on the field, it makes it slippery and hard," said the Super Bowl turf expert. "There are ridges near the baseball sliding zones and football end zones." Recreation Commissioner Michael DiBernardinis plans to ask the city for \$1.6 million for new turf in 1995. 1995?!

The turf industry received sad news with the death of **Howard E. Kaerwer** on Nov. 10th. Kaerwer, 73, was a longtime contributing writer to **LM** and an excellent resource for its editorial staff. Northrup-King's retired director of turf research and development won the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSAA in 1988, and was named 1993 Man of the Year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association. His breeding efforts yielded NK100, NK200, Goalie, Delray and Rugby. Memorials to the University of Minnesota's Landscape Arboretum Foundation are suggested.

Will 2,4-D become the Alar of the Clinton administration? "There's a damn good chance that if there's one product they go after, this will be the one," **LM** hears. The Administration may view the herbicide's continued use as a test case, an opportunity "to humiliate" a pesticide, and to placate anti-pesticide factions. More than 300 turf managers heard the prediction at the recent Ohio Turfgrass Conference.

A very determined lawn/landscaper has finally returned to the industry after a serious bout with cancer. **Vincent J. Acierno** tells **LM**, "I have fought my way through illness and recession." Acierno, owner of Environmental Maintenance Services, Staten Island, N.Y., twice had radical surgery to remove 30 tumors. After three years of chemotherapy treatments, Acierno can now market three of his business operation manuals and a proprietary computer program. If you're interested, see this month's classified ads.

Mark Light Stadium is another high-profile baseball field converting from synthetic turf to natural grass. **LM** hears through McGovern Construction that Light Stadium, home of the University of Miami Hurricanes, will have a sand-based field, under-drainage, automated irrigation and Bermuda 419 turf. McGovern Construction also built seven similar fields in Fort Myers, Fla., spring home of the Boston Red Sox.

Got an item for "LM Grapevine"? Phone us at (216) 826-2830, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, M-F.