

The Bunton Division of Jacobsen Textron has appointed seven new distributors: American Parts Distributors, Inc., Rockford, IL; Beaver Valley Supply, Denver, CO; Horizon Irrigation and Turf Solutions, Tempe AZ; Kimber Distributors, Syracuse, NY; Mid-America Golf and Turf Equipment, Shawnee, KS; Vans Supply and Equipment, Inc., Green Bay, WI; W.F. Miller Co., Novi, MI.

The 1998 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA, awarded its Sweepstakes Trophy to the float entered by the **Rain Bird Sprinkler Manufacturing Company**, Glendora, CA. The float, entitled *Adventures in the Rain Forest*, depicted the treasures of a lost civilization in the rain forest, complete with waterfalls, animated monkeys, butterflies

with wings flapping and a mist of water falling throughout the forest. It was decorated entirely by Rain Bird employees and their families.

Mesa Sprinkler purchased Phoenix-based Horizon Turf, Horizon Turf de Mexico, and Washington-based Evergreen Pacific and united them under the new name Horizon. Horizon, based in Tempe, AZ, is now the largest supplier of irrigation and turf-care solutions in the West with 165 employees and 15 locations.

L.R. Nelson Corporation, Peoria, IL, reorganized its turf division this past fall. **Dave Eglinton**, vice president of sales and marketing, says that three regional sales managers will coordinate all turf sales and marketing efforts under the direction of national sales

manager **Charles "Pepper" Putnam**. **Dale Hansen** is the Midwest regional sales manager; **Jeff Rzepecki** works in the West; and **Clark Graham** heads the Eastern sales effort.

The Toro Company topped the billion dollar market in sales in 1997. Net sales for the year were \$1.051 billion compared to \$930.9 million a year ago, an increase of 12.9 percent, including sales from its James Hardie Irrigation acquisition. Without Hardie, Toro net sales were flat compared to last year. "This year was a challenging one for Toro but also a pivotal one in that we made key investments that position us for growth into the 21st Century," said **Kendrick B. Melrose**, chairman and chief executive office of Toro.

Century Rain Aid acquired

Gulf Coast Pump, a wholesale distributor of irrigation and well drilling supplies with four locations in Alabama and Florida. Century Rain Aid, headquartered in Madison Heights, MI, now has 68 locations in 18 states and Canada. It's a subsidiary of Richton International Corporation.

Dr. Richard Hurley, executive vp of **Lofts Seed**, presented an annual royalty check totaling \$822,522 to Rutgers University. Hurley made the presentation to Dr. Reed Funk, Dr. Bill Meyer, Dr. Dan Rossi, and Bruce Clarke. In related news, Lofts, based in Winston-Salem, NC, awarded academic scholarships to 28 students this fall. Since 1983, the Peter Selmer Loft Fund has awarded over 150 scholarships to students studying turfgrass science at Cook College of Rutgers University.

Edwin Hunter, founder of **Hunter Industries**, died at the age of 81 in San Diego, January 23. Hunter held more than 150 US patents for turf and landscape irrigation products. His first company, Moist-O-Matic, used thermoplastics in the manufacture of irrigation equipment. After Toro bought Moist-O-Matic, Hunter directed Toro's irrigation division for 20 years. He founded Hunter Industries in San Marcos, Calif. in 1981. He is survived by sons Paul and Richard, and a daughter, Ann Welborn. Donations will be accepted at the Edwin and Frances Hunter Scholarship Endowment Fund, The Bishops School, 7607 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037.

Info center

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POPULAR REFERENCE BOOK... *Turfgrass Management Information Directory*, edited by Dr. Keith Karnok, features several new sections. There is now ordering information for several hundred videos, slide sets, books, magazines, seed and fertilizer samples and more. The director also includes complete listings of soil and plant analysis labs, diagnostic labs and computer services. There are climate maps, turfgrass chemical information, scientific names of turfgrass pests, conversion tables and calculations. Cost for single copy is \$34.95. Discounts are available for bulk orders. Contact Ann Arbor Press, 800/858-5299.

GARDENING IN HOT SPOTS... *Heat-Zone Gardening* (from Time-Life Books) by Dr. H. Marc Cathey, President Emeritus of the American Horticultural Society, (with Linda Bellamy) is reported to be the only available gardening guide that explains the first-ever AHS Plant Heat Zone map by Dr. Cathey. The book offers ideas to create ideal gardens that fit both climate and landscape, in any locale. Color photographs and illustrations, as well as step-by-step instructions on how to choose climate-adapted plants. Design and gardening techniques for drought and summer heat conditions are included. Cost is \$24.95. At bookstores now.