

James B. Beard

Special News!



AMERICAN SOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

A National Organization Dedicated to Advancement of the Sod Industry

May 11, 1977

1. LEGAL COUNSEL: Much discussion has been given to the use of the legal counsel by ASPA members. The first incoming phone call to ASPA legal counsel and furnishing of information already in the ASPA "reservoir" will be provided at no expense to the member. If additional research is needed, after explanation of ASPA policy by legal counsel, the member will be expected to pay for the additional costs. If the matter is of industry-wide concern, the president, after consultation with key officers will direct the policy. ASPA cannot enter into individual or state matters as an active participant however.

Material that has been made available to the Association generally can be provided to your local attorney or accountant if your company encounters similar problems. Please address all request to Bob Garey, the Executive Director of the Association, in Hastings, Nebraska. In addition, if you know of any federal or state rulings which either affect your company or some other company in the sod production industry, please notify Bob Garey so that the Association's files in this area will be as complete as possible. With your help, the Association can continue to serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding the treatment of sod producers under various federal and state laws and regulations. Our files will grow as you continue to report the results of litigation.

2. ARTIFICIAL TURF...ITS NOT THE ANSWER! The University of Minnesota Memorial Stadium in Minneapolis has just undergone a complete rebuilding of their football field. Originally 11,000 square yards of artificial turf was placed at a cost of \$600,000, or \$54.50 per square yard, according to Glenn Rehbein, ASPA Board member. Now they are taking up the artificial turf and selling it at \$2.75 per square yard, taking up the blacktop and rock under it, replacing it with sprinklers and drain tile, along with topsoil dirt and grass and the cost will be about \$125,000. The artificial turf has been used for only about five years. This is an increasing trend we see in football field development.

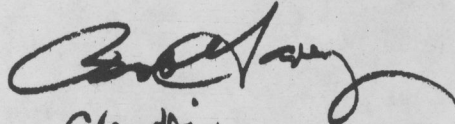
Wearing, fungus causing infection of burns to players, the lack of resiliency in the surface, and the complaints of players of poor footing offers real and new challenging opportunities for sod producers and suppliers.

3. MEMBERSHIP: ASPA membership is at an all time high! Current membership totals 324 with 264 Class "A" members, 45 Class "B" members, 12 Class "C" members and 3 honorary. These figures can be doubled if each member will sign one new member--the potential is there!



4. RULINGS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES REGARDING SOD PRODUCTION: The state of New York has reversed its assessment of \$1,091.00 against the Mercer Sod Company, Inc., of Trenton, New Jersey. The Sales Tax Bureau has claimed this amount as sales taxes, penalty and interest. ASPA legal counsel Bill Harding assisted by historical information currently available through the ASPA counsel which along with other substantiating information resulted in the cancellation of the sales tax assessment.

5. COME TO ST. PAUL IN JULY: A really outstanding meeting is shaping up in the land of 10,000 lakes! The ASPA Summer Convention & Field Days will be July 20-22, 1977, in St. Paul, Minnesota. You'll want to be there! Headquarters hotel is the Radisson St. Paul and you are urged to get room reservations made immediately. Their address is Radisson St. Paul, 11 East Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 - phone (612) 222-7711.


after dinner