

Irrigation has come a long way, baby

The STMA Historical Committee met in November 2007 for the first time to log and develop the acquired collection of the late Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA's first executive director. "Doc," as he was admirably referred to, also served as the association's first Historian, and amassed an amazing collection of document and photographs of the sports turf profession and STMA. Doc's collection included a kind donation from the estate of turf industry pioneer Dr. Fred Grau. In appreciation of Doc's contribution and the generous donation of the Kurtz family to STMA we will be running a monthly account of the people, places, stories, equipment, and photographs that are impor-



tant to the profession and association.

Hold on to your photos! Starting this spring, and in order to enrich Doc Kurtz's collection, the STMA Historical Committee will be running a contest each month to see who has the most unique pictures of sports turf specific equipment and significant STMA members. Look for details in this section in future issues.

Sports field irrigation has come a long way from hand watering with hoses and manually moving sprinklers, to hose reels, to quick couplers, to modern computerized sports field specific irrigation systems. These photos from the STMA Kurtz Historical Collection show a variety of early sprinkler heads. ■

Sports turf managers have also been very creative and innovative in irrigation. According to STMA Past President Steve Wightman, when he was at Mile High Stadium in Denver from the mid-1970's until the mid-1980's, a homemade semi-portable irrigation system was used to supplement the lack of coverage provided by the perimeter irrigation one of the original PAT Systems.

Cal puts rec field on garage roof

The University of California at Berkeley recently completed a project that put a playing field on top of a parking garage. Walker Parking Consultants served as prime designer and project engineer, while Overaa Construction built the garage and provided and installed the artificial turf.

Located two blocks south of the main campus, the Underhill parking facility has 1,000-spaces on four levels, with two floors below the ground. A 77,400-square foot multi-sport artificial turf field and running track serves as the facility's rooftop.

"We appreciated the opportunity to participate in this project and to develop UC Berkeley replacement parking in this part of the campus, along with a recreational field that features an innovative design," said Jerry Overaa, chief executive officer for Overaa Construction. "This facility underscores the definition of 'mixed use' for the UC Berkeley community."

During construction, UC Berkeley engineering students visited the site several times on field trips for classes focused on concrete and construction management. The entire project team supported this effort to contribute to the academic mission of the campus and provide students with a 'real world' case study. Students living in the nearby residence halls will now have new space available for intramural team sports and exercise. ■

