

grasses, other promising species were not neglected. In addition to the *Cynodon* species, selections were made of *Paspalum vaginatum*, *Stenotaphrum secundatum*, *Digitaria* spp., and *Dactyloctenium* spp. The southwestern region around Capetown, including Fishhook, Georgetown, and Stellenbosch, produced some very promising minimal-maintenance, drought-tolerant *Cynodon* species that were collected on closely mowed turfs. They had been growing on unirrigated, deep sandy soils for many decades and on old abandoned bowling greens.

On several golf courses immediately adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, a number of very superior *Paspalum vaginatum* turf-types were collected. They were growing constantly in salt water-flooded lowlands under continuous close mowing. Some of them were superior in turf quality to our more widely used hybrid bermudagrasses.

Southeastern Africa, along the Indian Ocean, around Durban, including Tangaat, Pietermaritzburg, and Cedara, has a very hot, humid climate. It is interesting that on many of the better closely mowed golf course fairways, St. Augustinegrass constitutes a major component in polystands with bermudagrass, especially under high salt conditions. Some very interesting minimal-maintenance, low water-use St. Augustinegrasses (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) were collected along with some unique turf-types, such as *Digitaria* and *Dactyloctenium* species.

Finally, in the area of Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Potschefstroom, the primary emphasis was to collect low-maintenance, drought-tolerant bermudagrasses, especially *Cynodon transvaalensis* and *C. magenisii* and hybrids thereof.

**T**HE PLANT materials collected during this African trip will now be subjected to intense assessment as to their nitrogen requirement, water use rate, drought tolerance, salt tolerance, and mowing requirement, as well as the key agronomic characteristics needed for use on lawns, sport fields, and greens. After this assessment is completed, this material may prove a new source of germplasm for breeding programs emphasizing water-conserving, minimal-maintenance turfgrasses. Furthermore, the possibility always exists that a few of these selections might prove sufficiently well adapted and perform so well that they will merit release as a new cultivar without incorporation into a breeding effort.



A green at Reading Country Club, South Africa. Many types of bermudagrasses (*Cynodon* spp.) are found at this long-established golf club.

## James Moncrief Retires



**F**OR THE PAST 29 years, golf course superintendents and green chairmen alike throughout the South have had the pleasure of working with a most remarkable man. On the national and international level, his ready smile, distinguished bearing and soft accent (always with something significant to say) added immeasurably to the color, knowledge and value of turfgrass meetings. On July 1, 1982, James Burton Moncrief retired from the USGA Green Section. He has had an extraordinary career and will be more conspicuous by his absence.

"Monty" came to the Green Section in 1954 from the Dallas, Texas, Parks

Department. A graduate of Texas A&M, he was at home across the nation's southern tier; from the Carolinas to the Arizona deserts. He also traveled extensively in South America and the Caribbean. He was among the first to recognize and collect samples of a very fine-leaved bermudagrass from southern putting greens. It was later to be called Tifdwarf.

He was indeed a collector! He brought samples of grasses, diseases, insects, soils, ideas — everything imaginable for university researchers to probe and investigate. If there was anything new in turfgrass research or management, Monty either instigated it or was well aware of the goings-on. There is no greater tribute for an extension teacher, and there have been few, if any, to equal his caliber.

It's a long way from B-25s in New Guinea early in World War II to today's whoosh of a 5-iron on the fairways of Athens Country Club, Georgia. Monty Moncrief has navigated the course well. But he will never really retire. "Mr. Bermooda" will still be collecting — this time pars, birdies and possibly an eagle or two. Of the latter, he deserves doubles. His world of friends would cheer for that!