



Ernie Schneider - 1995

Ernie Schneider, known to all of those in the industry as “Grandfather Turfgrass”, a title bestowed with the utmost of reverence. He started in the golf course business in 1922 as a caddy in Evansville, Indiana. In the early 1950’s, during a trip to the Beltsville, Maryland experimental station he took a handful of Zoysia sprigs from the edge of a test plot, wrapped them in a wet towel and brought them back to the Evansville Country Club. Within one year he had a plot of Zoysia three thousand square feet in size. Within three years he had over ten acres. In the late 1950’s he to Big Spring Country Club in Louisville, where in 1960 he established the first U-3 Bermuda fairways in this part of the country without fairway irrigation. He left Big Spring in 1962 to become Superintendent of the Bellrievue Country Club and to prepare the course for the 1965 U.S. Open. He returned to Big Spring in 1968 and remained there until his retirement in 1984.