Grau's Answers to Turf Questions

If you've got a question you want Dr. Fred V. Grau to answer, please address it to Grau Q&A, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago 5, Ill.

The Fine Supporting Role of Fred Williams

Two men in the turfgrass profession recently have come to the time to pause. H. Burton Musser and Fred H. Williams started serving their respective institutions in 1922. Both will terminate active service in 1959. The accomplishments of Prof. Musser may be seen on the turfgrass areas of the nation wherever his improved grasses are grown. The book “Turf Management” of which he is the author, may be found in the library of every dedicated turf man.

Not so well known is the story of Fred H. Williams. His contributions to turf have been in a “supporting role”. His accomplishments may be classed as “vicarious” in that he has lived and worked only to bring help and knowledge to others. The world of turf owes a great debt to this shy and wonderful man.

During the 37 years of devoted service to the USGA green section illness has claimed but seven days of his time. During these years he has worked under these men: Dr. C. V. Piper, Dr. Russell A. Oakley, Harvey Westover, Dr. John Monteith, Jr., Dr. Fanny Fern Davis, Dr. Fred V. Grau and C. K. Hallowell. As executive secy. he has given unstintingly of his amazing energy and consummate skill.

Outside of office hours, Fred has devoted much time to working with young people in athletics. He has remained single, but has spent more time helping boys to find themselves through Sunday school and in sports than most fathers. His tremendous success in athletics can be attributed to a thorough apprenticeship in playing, officiating, managing, coaching and scouting. He has conducted basketball tournaments, baseball schools and clinics. Fred himself is an accomplished bowler. It's characteristic of him to give credit to the other fellow by saying, “You have a ten-strike there.”

Owns 10,000 Books

Among the many hobbies which he pursues in his “spare time,” Fred loves books best. His library of over 10,000 volumes, none donated, boas a diverse classification. It is believed that he has the largest individual collection of books on sports, chess and psychology in the Mid-Atlantic area. Many books have been donated to those in need — no youngster ever has been turned away from his shelves. Some of us remember the hurricane of 1947 which soaked 250 volumes of Fred's precious books. Not a book was lost but it took weeks to dry each page by hanging the books on a clothesline. His love of literature and his generosity in helping youngsters are only two indications of the depth and warmth of this man.

His years of service have covered all but one year of the life of the USGA green section. The game owes as much to Fred H. Williams as to any scientist with whom he has worked.

Bermuda in Bluegrass

Q. We have an area of bluegrass fairway that is becoming infested with volunteer Bermuda-grass. How can we eradicate this Bermuda and keep it from spreading? (Ill.)

A. Two materials are effective in destroying unwanted Bermudagrass; Vapam and Dowfume. Replanting may be done about three weeks after treatment with Vapam, in 2-3 days following treatment with Dowfume. Vapam may be applied with sprinkling cans. Dowfume requires a cover. Follow manufacturer's directions.

Some golf clubs near you have decided that (Continued on Page 109)