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# Grau's Answers to Turf Questions

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

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## Professional Advancement

**W**E HAVE just completed a three-week trip to Seattle, Tacoma, San Francisco, Sacramento, Reno, Salt Lake City, Denver, Omaha and Chicago. All during this trip, ending in Chicago at the greatest GCSA conference and show ever held, we observed the most significant progress in professional advancement since we became associated with course supts. in 1927.

We can not begin to name all those with whom we have talked regarding the advancement of the supt. It is significant that nearly everywhere we go, we are asked to partake of the hospitality of the club and to join in round table discussions with officers, committee heads, the professional and the supt. At these luncheon panels we observe more and more that the professional status of the supt. has been recognized and is respected. Part of this is because the supt. has overcome many obstacles and has provided members with conditions that please them. Part of it stems from the fact that the supt. conducts himself in such a way that the members are glad to see him around the club. It is evident that his standing has become enhanced by his membership in GCSA and by his active participation in local and state affairs pertaining to his profession.

It is inevitable that when a man becomes highly proficient in his work, his services will be in demand by others. Offers of higher pay or chances for greater opportunity may prompt a supt. to move. To fill the gap with a man of equal ability and professional standing usually requires that the salary and other incentives be considerably higher than that paid to the man who couldn't afford to stay. Inevitably, this creates the feeling, "I would have been glad to stay if they would have given me that figure." In most cases, everyone would have been better off had they done so. It must be recorded here that, in some cases, in a misguided effort to "save money", the club fills the vacancy with a "tractor driver" who has had no professional training and who has attained no professional standing. Occasionally it works out all right but not very often. The records are full of mistakes and costly repairs due to incompetence.

We commend supts. who have been training replacements for themselves. It is particularly heartening that the trainee is taken to local meetings and to the annual conference where his education is extended and broadened. In these days of shortages of well-trained men, it is not at all sure that the trainee will stay long enough to take over the position when the supt. retires. Other clubs in dire need may bid so high for his services that he literally will be forced to move. This should bring pride to the supt. who trained him even though it means that he will have to seek another trainee.

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## Nutter Appointed GCSA Executive Director

Appointed to the newly created GCSA position of executive-director in January, Dr. Gene C. Nutter will begin full time duties with the Association in April when its headquarters are to be moved to Jacksonville, Fla. He is presently connected with the University of Florida as an associate professor and turf technologist at the Research Station.

Born in Delaware, O., Nutter attended Ohio State University where he received a B. S. in Agriculture. He did graduate work at the Cornell University Agronomy school, getting his Ph. D. there in 1951. Nutter worked as a research assistant while attending Cornell and joined the University of Florida staff eight years ago. Since that time he has worked extensively on turf research and management problems