

GRAU'S ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

Importance of Accuracy

Webster defines accuracy as "the state or quality of being accurate; freedom from mistake or error; precision; exactness." This will be no full-length essay on the subject, but rather a reminder of the many ways in which the idea, ACCURACY is an integral part of our business.

Herb Graffis in "Hanging On The Lip" (July 1960, GOLFING, p. 3) says, ". . . the sharpshooting small minority of experts place a higher premium on accuracy than they do on distance . . ." Scores of 64, 65, 66, etc., are made possible only by great accuracy in shotmaking so that the ball is positioned for possible birdies and eagles. A single error in judgment can result in several strokes being added, often dropping the contestant out of the money.

Should be Well Read

Recently a huge electronic computer insisted upon spewing out wrong answers. Careful checking revealed error in feeding data to the machine. A "9" had been fed instead of "90". It is said that a rancher in Montana received 1500 invitations to renew his subscription to a national magazine when an inaccuracy was fed to the billing machine.

Crews operating data-gathering flights near international boundaries must be highly accurate in their measurements. Ground crews at our airports must be accurate to the last decimal point to control the crowded schedules of takeoffs and landings without mishap.

Research of all kinds is based upon accuracy. Without it, we could be sure of nothing. Some so-called "research" does great damage by employing faulty techniques which lead to completely false and highly inaccurate conclusions.

How important it is that each putting green mower be set to cut exactly at the same degree of "closeness"! How sad are



Fred Grau, who has been in the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Arlington, Va., on a slow release basis for the last several months, has a green brought to him. It's on a plate at the bottom of the photo, comes from a Nebraska course and is discussed in a Q & A on these pages.

the results when the mechanic is not wholly accurate!

Once we saw some beautiful zoysia on a tee. It was said to have been planted by plugs which were taken out of the fringe of No. 1 green. Examination of both areas revealed inaccuracy. Without double-checking great harm could have been done. The grass around No. 1 green was a low-grade, coarse, common bermuda.

A Penncross nursery was "being invaded by poa." Double-checking revealed small proliferations of "yellow-tuft" which looked a bit like poa. There was no poa.

There is no end to which we could carry the examples which cry out for accuracy. One of the most important is driving on the right side of the white line. A surgeon must be accurate with his scalpel. Let each in his own field strive for accuracy. Observe the leaders among course supts. Note the accuracy of their observations, the accuracy of their procedures, the accuracy of their records. The "secret" of their success is then seen to be no "secret" at all.