

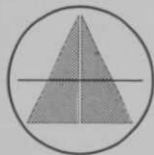


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## GRAU'S ANSWERS

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easier to keep and have not developed the same symptoms. Can you offer an explanation?

(Maryland)

A.—The woods that were destroyed in favor of the golf course were old when the first settlers arrived. Over the centuries nature provided fungi to assist in the decay of leaves and fallen trees. These fungi that live on decaying organic matter are still there and they still have vegetable remains on which to feed. Their mycelia (thread-like bodies) permeate the soil and trap air. When this fungal growth becomes dry it will shed water nearly as well as polyethylene. This seems to be basic to your problem of dry areas.

The tobacco land had been farmed for, perhaps, 200 years. During that time the woods-loving fungi largely were replaced by other organisms better suited to tilled land and to skimpy crop residues. Water penetrates this soil with greater ease because the air-trapping fungi are not so prevalent.

You must do much more soil cultivation in the woods areas to aid water penetration. *Never* should the subsoil be allowed to become dry, once it is wetted throughout to the full depth of the rootzone. A sharp probe in the hands of greensmen will help to determine the need for water in critical areas.

(Note: Dr. Grau inspected this course on a day when the official air temperature stood at 94° F. Hand watering was in force on all critical areas. It is significant that the superintendent had analyzed his own problem and was pursuing the only logical course of action. This Q and A records essential facts from which others may benefit.)

## THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Billy Burke won the Open in a 72-hole playoff with George Von Elm at Inverness. Using the "balloon" ball, Burke shot 292-297, Von Elm 292-298.

Amateur entry exceeded 500 for the first time (583), Francis Ouimet regaining title after 17 years at Beverly.