



CHARTER

**MID-ATLANTIC**

# News Letter



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## President's Message

By the time you read this article a large percentage of our group will have returned from another National Conference. These conventions are a wonderful experience and many more people in our profession should avail themselves of attending this national event. Many, many long hours and days are spent by our National GCSAA in putting these conferences together with other allied facets of our industry and their "pat on the back" for a job well done is in the attendance or turn out for the conference and show. We of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA can be proud of the fact that we are always well represented at this event.

Our Mid-Atlantic Association is continuing to grow and expand. We have a unique, well knit, diversified group which could work to the betterment of our association as a whole. This can be accomplished through active participation and cooperation with one another and our group. Visit your neighboring superintendents, exchange ideas and viewpoints, assemble and compile some of this information (write down on paper any worthwhile thoughts) and work with your Board of Directors in a disseminating such information to our membership. Many of you could help to expand our newsletter by writing articles on your experiences. Give it a try — become involved.

*Alex Watson*

## The Thinking Superintendent

### YOUR OWNERS MANUAL

A lot of valuable information regarding golf course maintenance machines can be recorded on the front of the owners manual and parts list that comes with each piece of equipment.

At Woodmont we retain and have on file a maintenance manual for each machine we have ever bought. On the front cover of the manual is recorded the date of purchase, cost of the item, the name, address, and phone number of the suppliers, the manufacturer's serial number, the make and serial number of the engine, as well as code, type and model numbers.

For tractors we show the manufacturer's model and serial numbers, the type of engine, and of course the engine serial number. We also list tire sizes as well as tire serial numbers. If it is a fairway tractor with mowers attached, we show the serial number of each mowing unit. For quick reference we list the spark plug number and gap setting. Also listed are the numbers for the air cleaner and oil filter.

This information is taken right off the machine the day it is delivered while the numbers are still clean and easy to read. With these figures to back us up, we are in a good position to prove ownership in case of theft or for insurance purposes in case of fire.

*Bob Shields*

## Dr. Grau Wins His Second Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Grau was born and raised in eastern Nebraska (Bennington); and it was there that he got his start in agriculture, for he graduated president of his class (1921) in Bennington's high school of agriculture. Following high school, Fred worked with his father and brother on the family farm for one summer before beginning his agricultural career by working for Dr. Kime, a state extension agent. Dr. Kime was a grass specialist and was noted for training more turf agronomists than anyone else in his field. Fred started out working on grass plots but after a short period was

put in charge of maintaining the state's Living Plant Museum". This unique opportunity enabled Fred to propagate and maintain every known plant and their varieties that would grow within the fertile Nebraska soil and survive the climate. Through this extension service job, Fred was exposed to the University of Nebraska and with the help of Dr. Kime, enrolled as a college student in 1927. To help make ends meet Fred worked as a greenskeeper at the Old Shrine Country

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Club while attending classes at the University — working the golf course one day and going to classes the following day.

Apparently this odd schedule worked out for Fred, for as in his high school, Fred graduated president of his senior class in 1931 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Taking with him the Alpha Zeta Scholarship Award for the highest scholastic standing within his class of 700, on 1/10th point below the highest scholastic record ever set at the university up to that time. During the summer of '31, following his graduation, Fred began his USGA career taking charge of the maintenance of turf plots in Chicago. During this time he also began writing articles for the USGA Greens Section Bulletin, and soon moved to the USGA headquarters in Washington D.C. to work on their turf plots, then located where the Pentagon stands today. This work agreed with Fred and he remained in Washington to obtain his masters degree at the University of Maryland in 1933. His masters degree was based upon his work with weed control in turf with sodium arsenate. Two years later, in 1935, Fred Grau became Dr. Grau when he earned his doctorate at the University of Maryland by touring every state, gathering soil samples, as he visited all the turf facilities he could locate within the United States. His doctorate thesis was on soil types and varieties, which had to be analyzed, resulting in the start of a soil lab at the University of Maryland. The finished thesis was reproduced in full as a station bulletin issued by the University of Maryland on soils — the first of its kind.

After obtaining his doctorate degree, Dr. Grau became the first extension agent dealing exclusively with turf in the United States. For a salary of less than \$3,000 per year, Dr. Grau served the state of Pennsylvania for ten years as a leading authority on turfgrass. During this decade of his life he came across Crown Vetch, growing as a weed, on a steep bank near a roadside. Six years

had passed before the first seed became available from extensive propagation of this "peculiar weed". But this was not his only setback, for once certified seed was available for marketing, Dr. Grau found he could not sell any seed for state highway erosion control, because he had a monopoly on the seed and the state could not purchase without competitive bids. After creating his own competition, Dr. Grau finally could see the results of his work, as all of us can see today, acres upon acres of pink and purple crown vetch growing on the highway banks through out the state of Pennsylvania. This year's official 1975 Pennsylvania state highway map features a front cover of a state highway with its banks of purple crown vetch, promoting its beauty and usefulness.

In 1945, Dr. Grau left the turf extension job to return to Maryland to work again for the USGA greens section, which was then relocated to Beltsville, Maryland. Dr. Grau served as Director of the Greens Section for eight years, 1945-1953. During those years with the USGA Dr. Grau organized the first turf section of the American Society of Agronomy and served as chairman for eight years. This achievement brought forth the first world recognition of turfgrass as an equal with all other agricultural crops. Two years later, in 1948, Dr. Grau helped the government produce a USDA yearbook on grass. More reprints were ordered and printed from the turfgrass section than from any other yearbook in history, resulting in a big historical reference point of the new found prominence of grass within the United States.

Further world recognition of turf as a growing industry came in 1952 when Dr. Grau presented a paper at the 6th International Grasslands Congress titled "Turfgrass — a World Concept." This paper marked the first recognition of turf by this organization.

The early 50's had Dr. Grau working with Tom Mascaro as a turf equipment salesman and consultant for West Point Products and helped design their first aerifier. During this period of time Dr. Grau received his first Distinguished Service Award (1954) from GCSAA.



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A year later Dr. Grau was instrumental in forming the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. He was not an active member because of this commercial affiliation with Hahn-West Point, but never the less worked hard to form the group's by — laws and developed the turfgrass association logo as we know it today. He later joined the association and eventually rose through the ranks to become president.

In the years to follow Dr. Grau continued to remain prominent with the turf industry serving as a turf consultant for *Golfdom Magazine*, writing a monthly column for this publication for over thirty years. His "Turf Round-ups" column, published in the early 50's, remains to be as complete a coverage of the total U.S. turf industry as have ever been published.

In 1968, upon returning from the funeral of Burt Musser, Dr. Grau could visualize the need of developing a constant inflow of leaders within the turf industry. The result was the founding of the H.B. Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, whose sole objective was to provide scholarship funds for turf students working towards a PhD within the field of turf grasses. This would eventually result in producing new leaders for turf development in the years to come. To qualify for a foundation grant, a student must already have a masters degree in a turf related topic and be working for a doctorate.

The following year, 1969, Dr. Grau was requested to assist our armed forces in Viet Nam. The challenge that he faced was that of growing some kind of grass on Camaron Bay, to hold the shifting sands in place for the air fields. Following this successful venture Dr. Grau was awarded another Distinguished Service Award in Turf from the USGA greens section. Camaron Bay was noted to be the "biggest sand trap in the world" according to Bob Hope, who held one of his armed forces Christmas shows at the Bay.

# Board Meeting Highlights



Our first board meeting was held January 7, 1975 following the conference at the Baltimore Hilton Inn. After a few welcoming remarks by the president to the new board members, President Watson made appointments to the standing committees for 1975 as follows:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| National affairs and employment committee | Paul Barefoot                      |
| Finance committee                         | David Fairbanck                    |
| Secretary treasurer                       | Angelo Cammarota                   |
| Membership committee                      | Virgil Robinson                    |
| Educational committee                     | Robert Orazi                       |
| Golf committee                            | Ronald Hall                        |
| Benevolent fund                           | Lou White                          |
| Meeting dates committee                   | Sam Kessel                         |
| Publicity and Newsletter                  | Craig Spottswood                   |
| Social and Fraternal                      | Ronald Hall, Lou White, Sam Kessel |

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Delegates to National Convention as previously appointed | Angelo Cammarota<br>Ronald Hall, alternate |
|--|--|

President Watson discussed some goals to attain in 1975, and requested some suggestions from the Board; a draft of the goals will be finalized at the following board meeting in February.

After a brief discussion of individual respective job assignments and 1975 objectives, the meeting date for February was set and we adjourned early to enable everyone to check out of the Hilton.

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