

Doc's Dugout - An Inning from our Past & Present

by Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA Historian

In Search of Our Past

During late June and early July, I made a connection with our past by travelling to College Park, Maryland, to visit Fred Grau Jr. and then to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to visit Bud Gill. These are the sons of Dr. Fred Grau and Harry Gill, STMA's early leaders.

Fred Jr. is the president of Grasslyn, a company located in State College, Pa., founded by his father after discovering by chance a plant he named Penngift crownvetch in 1935. Penngift crownvetch is a legume sold by Grasslyn that controls erosion along thousands of acres of highways in the USA. Bud Gill, the eldest son of Harry Gill, operates a foster parent home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Both of these gentlemen are willing to share pictures, articles and information with me about their famous fathers so we can preserve STMA's past and history. I found this article written by Dr. Fred Grau for an STMA presentation he made in the 1980's which he called: "Let's Understand Each Other"

A father said to his son who was contemplating a trip, "before you go anywhere first find out where you are!" Life is a one-way trip. At all times we should know where we are, where we've been and where we are going. Don't be like that crazy bird that flies back wards. He doesn't give a damn where he's going or he's crazy to see where he's been.

Knowing where we are is equivalent to understanding ourselves - who we are, where we've been and where we are going. Before we can truly understand our relationship to those around us and with whom we work and play we must first understand ourselves. Take stock!

You have a job! It is a good one! It allows one to give family security and a good life. I am a member of an organization that keeps all members informed of things that can, if heeded, help me better my posi-

tion. I contribute articles to the organizations' official publication which are sometimes published. That gives me a feeling of satisfaction that maybe, in sharing that which I know, someone else may have been helped. I try to give more than I get.

Do I fully understand my own organization? I'm not sure. I guess to fully understand my organization I'll have to become more involved. There are other groups that interact with my organization. In fact, in turfgrass there

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is almost complete interlocking of many interests. Before I can understand how these other segments affect me and my parent group, I have to fully understand my own organization.

Sports Turf is the most abused and neglected area in the turfgrass industry. Now it becomes essential for the needs of sports turf to be understood by everyone to make fields safer and the concept understood by everyone. Soil, grass and those who manage it have a common denominator so that each can communicate and help one another. "Get Involved; But Above All, Get Understanding." Like the original 13 colonies, "If we don't hang together, we'll hang separately." The challenge is to get together and stay together.



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