



'Sincerely yours, for better turf...'

GRAU from page 11

In 1968, Grau organized the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation to develop qualified leaders in turfgrass science and promote safer sports turf. The National Sports Turf Council followed in 1986.

Stricken by polio in later years, Grau's pace was slowed. However, his enthusiasm in turf research remained vibrant.

Grau was a prolific and opinionated writer. Whether in his "Musings" and "Gleanings" columns, "Grau's Q&A" (which he wrote for 30 years for *Golf-dom* magazine) or his informal, handwritten notes, Grau provided his fellow turf professionals with direct, honest observations.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 8.

—Terry McIver □

LETTERS

Remembering Fred Grau

To the editor:

In the summer of 1986, as the managing editor of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*, I traveled to Fred Grau's home in Maryland to talk turf. When he opened the door, I saw a large, elderly man with failing eyesight, sitting on a cart that seemed almost an extension of himself.

He looked up with a big smile and asked, "What would you like for breakfast?" But before I could answer, he took out the eggs (farm fresh, brown ones) and began scrambling. The eggs...and my mind. Fred, after all, was always coming up with new ideas and inventions, though he's best known for crown-vetch.

My first image of him as "elderly" was completely wrong. He was perhaps the most youthful, energetic person I have ever met.

I followed Fred down the street as he whizzed ahead on his cart, eagerly telling

me about his neighbors with the brown lawn. Later we had homemade ice cream at the University of Maryland's dairy farm. The ice cream tasted rich that steamy day. But the richest experience was just getting to know Fred Grau.

He sent me home with stacks of his writing, and ideas on improving the safety of athletic fields and—most importantly—educating field managers.

Although I saw Fred many other times at trade shows, it is that day I remember most. The athletic turf articles were published with a special thanks to Fred. And the editorial I wrote then, about injured athletes, was called "Images of Grief."

"Grief" is a word Fred would give little credence. So when remembering Fred Grau, remember instead the images of life.

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