

THE SPECIALISTS AGE by Jack Baker, H. V. Carter Co., Inc. Oakland

Whatever happened to "Handy-Andy?" Fortunate is the organization today who employs the man of many talents - he's the biggest time, labor and expense saver yet probably the one that is least appreciated. To begin with, there just are not too many of them around in this day when everyone is a specialist. Not so long ago the "maintenance" man could handle any problem, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, blacksmithing, carpentry, you name it and he could do it.

We compromise arguments by saying that today our needs are so sophisticated in operation and design that it takes a trained "specialist" in his particular area of education, to handle the problems. While some of this is true, how great it would be to offer a willing and helpful hand whatever the problem or particular job to be done. If it means going through a learning process there are more than adequate channels of education and the more well-rounded background a fellow achieves the more he will be in demand and up-grade his salary requirements and value to his employer.

Maintenance and repairs are by nature "dirty" jobs and unless the individual responsible is commended and properly acknowledged for his ability he can easily feel dejected and low in spirits. Pride of accomplishment in giving new life to a piece of equipment that has been out of adjustment and out of service is something to be acknowledged and appreciated.

Much of the progress made in industry today in the development of machinery has come from experiences in the field through suggestions made by the men charged with the repair and maintenance. We take off our caps to our repair men - may they always be appreciated.

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SAFE PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM SUSTAINED - The California Department of Food and Agriculture has received a court opinion which sustains its program for safe pesticide use in California.

Monterey County Superior Court denied a request for a permanent restraining order. Food and Agriculture Director Richard Rominger says this court ruling "clears the way for the orderly implementation of the closed pesticide mixing requirement designed to improve the safety of the working environment for pest control employees."

Growers, governmental agencies and other employees covered by the regulations have to provide their employees with closed mixing systems after July 1.

In hardship cases, the July date may be postponed, if evidence can be shown that the required systems meeting Departmental criteria are on order or being built. No postponement will be allowed after December 31, 1977.

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