

Tree Beauty: A Necessity for National Welfare, Theme of 41st ISTC Washington Meet Last Month

"Trees in Modern Municipal Beautification" was keynote topic of the week-long International Shade Tree Conference Convention, held in the Washington, D.C. Hilton Hotel, August 16-20. Numerous panel sessions, devoted to the maintenance and preservation of the nation's trees, revealed modern techniques and concerns that have branched from our present-day tree of knowledge.

Deep-rooted motivations to better beautify America were obvious among the more than 800 conferees who were in complete agreement with Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson's remarks at the White House Conference on Natural Beauty in May. She proclaimed, "Our peace of mind, our emotions, our spirit—even our souls—are conditioned by what we see. There is growing feeling in this land today that ugliness has been allowed too long, that it is time to say 'Enough,' and to act."

Underscoring President Johnson's interest in trees was an impressive ISTC convention ceremony in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, during which Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall, and other Washington dignitaries planted a Scarlet Oak.

Leading authorities from commercial and governmental organizations, and scientists from horticultural and agricultural institutes discussed many problems that exist to conserve and manage one of America's great resources, trees.

Vaydik Reviews Kansas City Streetscape Methods

"A new awareness of the wonderful selection of available plant materials is currently sweeping the country," Frank Vaydik, Supt. of Parks, Kansas City, Mo., said during a panel on "Planting and Replacements of Trees in the Modern City." "We have for many years attempted to restore trees and flowers to our city, and welcome the recent backing from Washington. The simple beauty of grass, trees, shrubs, and flowers is needed in all of our towns and cities.



A tree for The President's Park. Mrs. Orville Freeman, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture, swings an expert spade as she applies finishing touches to the planting of a Scarlet Oak, official tree for District of Columbia, at the "Unity Through Trees" ceremony opposite The White House during opening ceremonies of ISTC meet. Standing to her left is Interior Secretary Udall. To her right is Joseph A. Dietrich, '64-'65 ISTC president. Similar tree-planting ceremonies took place simultaneously in 30 states with their governors participating.

Beauty of any city is limited only by imagination and initiative.

"In Kansas City, we have and prefer to plant trees in nice, wide strips of sod between curbs and sidewalks, but direct planting is often handicapped by concrete.

"We recommend tree wells built into sidewalks that are designed well before construction or reconstruction. If plans for installing tree wells are not made ahead of time, concrete saws provide openings in already-constructed sidewalks.

"Where areaways and utility pits are located under concrete walks, we use fiberglass or concrete boxes for tree planters. Even though the confinement of relatively small boxes is not ideal, planters are often the only solution to provide greenery on a crowded city sidewalk. On a job where three blocks of downtown Kansas City were streetscaped, we used fiberglass planters (30" x 36") that cost \$160.00 each.

"We plant balled and bur-

lapped (B&B), 2- to 3-inch trees. Youngsters sometimes swing on newly planted trees, and bare-rooted trees become damaged easily. Guy wires aren't necessary if you use B&B trees, and water loss is minimized. Although bare-rooted trees are cheaper, we feel the added expense is well justified. Our average cost of 2- to 2½-inch B&B trees is \$27.00.

"A hydraulic log loader is used to lift trees from trucks to holes. After trees are oriented in the hole, we peel back the burlap, and fill the hole with a mixture of peat moss and topsoil. Then we make a ring from excess soil around the tree base and add water.

"Planting is not complete," Vaydik added, "until the tree is tagged. One side of the tag reads: Your Tax Dollar Bought This Tree . . . The Park Department Planted It. A street tree provides eye appeal, shade, comfort and makes for a City Beautiful. This tree was planted by the Park Department to help restore Kansas City's famous forest. This is a fine specimen, well branched, vigorous and planted with care. The Park Department will spray, prune and care for it. This is a (specimen name) tree.

The other side of the tag begins with the statement, "You Can Help." It gives watering instructions and warns that damage is caused by lawnmowers, autos, vandalism and too much fertilizer.

Personnel More Troublesome Than Trees

"To have a well-managed tree replacement program you must have qualified personnel handling the municipal reins without political involvement," Frederick Micha, Monroe Tree Surgeons, Inc., Rochester, N.Y., stated as he listed a few trouble spots encountered by tree companies.

From his conversations with other arborists, Micha found that, "The first basic error is lack of sufficiently qualified people, on the average, with

whom arborists must work." He discovered that in smaller communities, knowledge of tree species is inadequate, and municipal workers are too busy to devote the time required for municipal tree maintenance. "In large cities, tree maintenance supervisors are often appointed politically, and most lack knowledge of requirements for a good tree care program.

"Inspectors and inspections are where we get into the untenable situation of unqualified people making decisions. Here is where all the hard work that went into making the specifications is neglected. Backfills with good topsoil are ignored, peat moss mixtures eliminated, and certain sized stakes and trees forgotten, to name a few.

"Bid limitation is also a problem. Not advocating a great raise in bid limits, I do feel municipal bid limits are too low since plant material is different from a tangible snowplow or truck. Plants are living things that must be nurtured. Also, 5- or 10-year contracts should be considered by professional arborists so that contractors can plan well in advance for scheduling and ordering material as well as know how to plan their work," Micha continued. "For a well-developed program of replanting trees in the modern city, we have to make detailed plans to insure conception, development, and delivery of sufficient quantities of quality trees for our local municipalities."

"Modern homes require many electrical appliances, but combinations of electrical wire and natural beauty conflict," Donald Switzer, Vice President, Electric Operations, Hartford Electric Co., Hartford, Conn., revealed during the panel discussion. "Thirty percent of our service runs are for tree trimming. We find that with sufficient clearance, strong, healthy trees are compatible with power lines. When we have to remove a tree because of power trouble, we buy the replacement. With residential expansion comes an increased need for electric power service. This often means that high voltage cable must be added to serve new areas, and trees under lines of very high voltages must be trimmed to provide extra clearance."



Vegetation chemical control research and techniques to reduce rights-of-way maintenance was topic of this ISTC panel of experts. They are (from left to right): Dr. T. O. Evrard, Dept. of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg; Herbert O. Drennan, Carolina Power and Light Co., Raleigh, N.C.; Fred A. Ashbaugh (moderator), Supervisor of Forestry, West Penn Power Co., Greensburg, Pa.; Richard E. Abbott, Ohio Power Co., Canton; Hyland Johns, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Jenkintown, Pa.; and Glen Fuller, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio.



"Safe tolerances, not useless exercises in mathematics, should be goal of residue detection," Louis A. McLean (left), Velsicol Chemical Corp. secretary, stressed in this group's authoritative review of pesticide use in modern society. Other participants were (from the left, seated) Dr. Richard J. Campana, University of Maine Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology, Orono; Walter W. Dykstra, Reserch Staff Specialist for Pesticides and Control Methods, U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington; and Dr. Paul B. Pearson, President of the Nutrition Foundation, Inc., New York City.



Contract tree work from both tree company and utility viewpoints were put forth by these executives from both interests. Speakers, from the left, were Robert J. Kelly, Detroit Edison Co., Detroit, Mich.; Steve Pugh, Bartlett Tree Expert Co., Stamford, Conn.; R. Larry Rowse (moderator), Portland (Ore.) General Electric Co.; H. J. Cran, Jr., Connecticut Light and Power Co., Hartford; and Keith L. Davey, Davey Tree Surgery Co., Ltd., San Francisco, Calif.

Growth Retardant: Keynote on Chemical Control Panel

Chemical control by growth retardants was the topic of a panel discussion moderated by Fred A. Ashbaugh, Supervisor of Forestry, West Penn Power Co., Greensburg, Pa.

"There was an obvious difference in the growth of elm, mulberry, hackberry, and boxelder tree sections treated with MH-30T (maleic hydrazide) when compared with untreated portions," H. O. Drennan, Carolina Power and Light Co., Raleigh, N.C., told a group of utility



Events for the entire family is the way ISTC program planners arrange activities. This was especially true this year with convention being held in the Nation's Capital. These early arrivals lined up to register and obtain details for trips scheduled for the wives and youngsters.



Over 20 suppliers demonstrated their equipment at U.S. National Arboretum for ISTCers. Shown here is a massive stump axe made by Bles Stumpax Co. Arborists watched this unrelenting claw dig out the huge stump in under one hour, a job that would otherwise have taken three men three days to accomplish. Also shown were skylifts, chippers, sprayers, dusters, chain saws, and stump cutters. Shade of trees protected spectators from 98° temperature during the activity.

arborists. "Also sweet gum and wild cherry showed less growth after treatment, but new growth in treated areas was, after a time, quite vigorous. Various effects resulted from sugar maples treated with MH-30T, and the chemical showed no outstanding effect on honey locust, American elm, and pecan. Stem growth of sycamore, red maple, aspen, Chinaberry, oaks, magnolia, tulip tree, and crepe myrtle was irregular and not reduced by MH-30T treatments.

"Our experience with MH-30T in Raleigh indicates that weather conditions (rainfall and humidity) and soil conditions, as well as choosing the right time to apply, may greatly influence the results given by MH-30T used as a growth inhibitor," Drennan concluded.

"MH-30T at the 10,000 parts per million rate (4 lb./50 gal.) caused some burning of leaf tips of elms and maples in growth inhibition tests in Roanoke in 1964," Dr. T. O. Evrard, Dept. Plant Pathology and Physiology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, added. "Leaf tip burning was not severe, however, nor was it objectionable when viewed from the ground.

"American and Chinese elms, Norway maples, silver maples, and linden trees were markedly inhibited by MH-30T. Tulip trees, sprayed in full bloom, apparently weren't inhibited, and no toxic effects were noticed. Sycamores showed some inhibition, and more was expected, but rain washed the chemical from the foliage."

One of the main objectives of

growth inhibition tests in Virginia is to search for a chemical method to regulate regrowth after trimming. Both frequency of tree trimming and highway maintenance costs would be reduced.

Glen Fuller announced that tree growth retardant research is surging forward at Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, O. "A test compound that can be incorporated in a lanolin-base wound dressing has given promising results during Puerto Rico experiments. Puerto Rico tests were initiated to facilitate rapid testing by gaining a season over the temperate U.S. The new retardant, in its lanolin base, was applied to cut plant surfaces. Results show that dormant buds are inhibited. In tests using 1% inhibitor dressing, 3½ feet of growth emerged from the pure lanolin check, and only 12 inches grew from treated-cut surfaces. In Connecticut on silver maple, and sycamore in Philadelphia, Pa., there was up to 6 feet of growth on the control and only 6 to 12 inches formed on treated stock."

The new compound, still anonymous, was screened from 150 prospective growth retardants, many of which were declared ineffective during preliminary greenhouse and field tests. Edison Electric Institute initiated the Battelle Institute research program on growth retardants.

Hyland Johns, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Jenkintown, Pa., discussed problems involved with chemical vegetation control. Johns outlined the necessities for a successful chemical control program which includes continuity of service, adoption of long-range programs, and adequate supervision.

"Chemical control," Johns explained, "is like tree trimming and other phases of line clearance, it's only a tool. Frequently we are prisoners of past experience which limits our concepts and methods.

"Postponement of needed sprays saves short-term dollars, but is costly in long-range economy and public relations. Budget problems, of course, are always with us, but a long-range management program leads to a satisfiable control schedule and reduced cost. Year-round service has several benefits not found with only seasonal operations.

Personnel can be trained and selected less frequently, and work crews may be cut to one-third the number needed for a three-month schedule to do the same amount of work.

"Even though a chemical crew is more profitable than a trimming crew, chemical crews need closer supervision. Careless drift and volatility damage, poor coverage, and complaints are the usual result of inadequate supervision."

Contract Controversy Solved

Speakers on various aspects of tree maintenance contracting were introduced by panel moderator R. Larry Rowse, Portland General Electric Co., Portland, Ore.

"The argument on contracting versus utility crews is resolved by recognizing two points," Keith L. Davey, Davey Tree Surgery Co., Ltd., San Francisco, Calif., told the arborists. "One point is that a contractor must prove his right to tree maintenance work by his reputation and ability to justify his costs to the satisfaction of the utility. Second, utilities should use every opportunity to contract line clearing because today



Untold opportunities now exist as a result of the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, new ISTC President, Olaf J. Andersen, reminded members after taking office. A past president of the group's Southern Chapter, and '64-'65 President-Elect, he knows well the association's responsibility in the new national tree planting and tree care program.

we are living under a private enterprise system. Privately owned utilities should fight for the private enterprise system and continue its good job. Pacific Gas and Electric Co., the largest private utility, has contracted almost all of its work for 30 years with happy results to the public and company."

"In Hartford, Conn., we have found that itemized schedule and bidding forms help foremen

and contractors get together on what to expect from contract tree maintenance arrangements," H. J. Cran Jr., Conn. Power and Light Co., said from the utility arborists' panel. "Schedules should include a record of the present number of plants, time allowed for tree trimming, and plans for additional trim work in future cycles. Our tree trimming report includes: year last trimmed, miles covered, areas trimmed, and total man-hours. For brush control we note the last year sprayed, miles covered, number of sections sprayed, and total man-hours. With man-hour and schedule requirements on record, contracting utilities and tree maintenance operators can see clearly the facilities needed for an economical and satisfactory maintenance program."

In a detailed report on contract line clearance methods used at Detroit, Mich., Robert J. Kelly of Detroit Edison Co. said, "For scheduling and record-keeping purposes, tree service is divided into numbered trimming areas that have geographical township, city, and village boundaries.

"Field operation in each area

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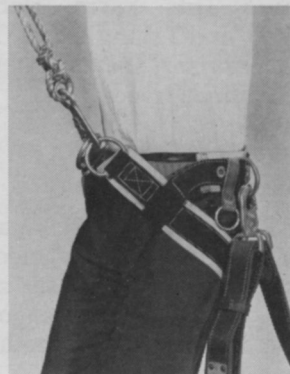
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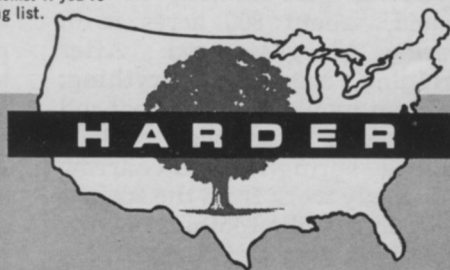
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is broken down into a series of descriptive units. Presently, we have contractors bid on these units by division. Unit divisions, used for contract references, should be well defined with few variables. Tree trim units are based on line voltage, and tree cut units are based on tree diameter.

"We get more miles of lines cleared for less cost by using the unit bid system. Supervision requirements of the company have increased but the cost per unit is less and total expenditures have fallen."

Continuing with the subject of expenditures and profit, Steven Pugh, Bartlett Tree Expert Co., Stamford, Conn., added, "A company should make enough profit to reduce service costs to future users through tolls and research progress. What is profit? It's both a compass and a goal. In a company, profit is the measure of service and proficiency."

Pesticides: Integral Part of Modern Society

"The subject of our panel presentation, 'Pesticides in the Modern Society,' may be best described by the terms complexity, ignorance, confusion, and misunderstanding," Dr. Richard J. Campana, President-Elect, ISTC, University of Maine, Orono, told the attentive delegates. "Man can contaminate his environment in many ways, however man's life is now geared to use of pesticides. The role of insecticides today is complex, and we'll hear much more of them in the future."

"Large scale usage of pesticides in the manner recommended by manufacturers and U. S. government regulations is consistent with sound public health policies," Dr. Paul B. Pearson, President of the Nutrition Foundation, Inc., New York, N. Y. cited. "This was the general conclusion of the World Health Organization, U. S. Public Health Service, and the Food Protection Committee of the National Research Council after reviewing the public health aspects of proper pesticide usage." Pearson agreed with other panel members that it is important to recognize a potential pesticide danger. However, used properly, pesticides contribute greatly to man's health and wel-



Deep go the roots of this "official" ISTC slate of officers responsible for the coming year's activities. They are (from left to right) Editor Paul Tilford, Executive Secretary, National Arborist Assn., Wooster, Ohio; Dr. Richard Campana, President-Elect, University of Maine, Orono; Joseph A. Dietrich, '64-'65 President, Park Superintendent, Greenwich, Conn.; Olaf J. Andersen, '65-'66 President, from Trees of Houston, Houston, Tex.; Vice President C. Elmer Lee, Alhambra, Calif., Line Clearing supervisor of the Southern California Edison Co.; and Dr. Lewis C. Chadwick, ISTC Executive Secretary at Ohio State University, Columbus.

fare by protecting foodstuffs and vegetation from pest invasion, and they aid in disease vector control.

"Losses of food from insects, plant, and animal diseases are much greater in less industrialized countries. Estimates in India show that 18% of the food produced is destroyed by insects and an estimated 8,800,000,000 rodents before it reaches the table. The U. S. would probably be an underfed rather than an overfed country if it were not for the widespread use of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals," Pearson contends.

"The dose solely makes the poison," Louis A. McLean, Secretary, Velsicol Chemical Corp., Chicago, told the delegates. "Doctors learn that every drug, every food, every material, if over-dosed can be lethal. Conversely, minute amounts of highly toxic materials which are added to, or occur naturally in, foods are safe; some even benefit good body function. Emphasis should be on proper usage rather than substitution of one thing for another. Truly, it has been said, there are no safe materials, merely safe ways of using them.

"Much controversy both before and since the advent of Rachael Carson's book, 'Silent Spring,' has brought forth the importance of intelligent usage and precise measurement of both doses and pesticide residues recovered. The National Academy of Science re-

port on chlordane determined it is a safer product than believed when tolerances were set in 1950. The report concluded that there is no evidence available to indicate that chlordane constitutes any real or potential hazard as a residue in foods or as a contaminant in other environmental aspects."

Today, pesticide residue contamination is based on traces recovered from food, soil, and water by very delicate instruments such as gas chromatographs. Pesticide traces are recovered from numerous parts per million to immeasurably small amounts.

"Scientifically, zero is merely the detectible limit of the instrument. Unfortunately, through recent history of pesticide detection of controversial materials, rules of the game changed as each new and more accurate instrument was developed," McLean continued.

"The objective has always been safety, not useless exercises in mathematics causing perfectly good milk to be sewered because infinitesimal amounts of pesticides could be detected by the newer instruments. Many people have been worried by reports of residue findings of billionths and trillionths which, if true, should be reassuring instead of alarming.

"The National Academy of Science reports that 'zero' tolerance should mean 'negligible' and permissible residues should

be determined on the basis of actual acceptable daily intake. Thus, the scientific community has spoken and pointed the path to assure adequate food supply and health protection.

"However, you cannot erase imaginative fears by merely stating the considered judgment of experienced scientists. The National Academy report emphasizes it is wrong to create alarm where a residue is negligible. It is wrong to shout 'fire' in a crowded theater, and it is criminal to so shout because analytical instruments indicate that someone in the lobby lit only a cigarette," McLean told the arborists. "There have been some misuses and there are health situations where a small calculated risk to wildlife is necessary. Lack of substantial injury, however, is seen by the increasing numbers of song birds and wildlife population explosions in Delta country which has been most heavily treated."

"Just what do we know about effects of pesticide chemicals on fish and wildlife resources?" Walter W. Dykstra, Research Staff Specialist, U. S. Department of Interior asked. "We do know that some species are

highly sensitive to certain pesticides. Generally, crustaceans, mollusks, and fish are most sensitive, followed in order of decreasing sensitivity by amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Residues from one or more of the chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, including DDT and its degradation products, are now found in practically all specimens examined by the Fish and Wildlife Service." Dykstra pointed out that residues of chlorinated hydrocarbons have been recovered from penguins and seals from as far away as the Antarctic. Residues detected by highly sensitive instruments vary from only a few parts per trillion to several thousand parts per million.

After summarizing case histories of residue incidents, Dykstra outlined rules of safety and conservation for use of chemical pesticides. "Resort to chemical pest control after considering carefully their use in terms of need, anticipated results, and possible harmful effects. Use only those chemicals registered for a particular pest and follow label instructions. When selecting materials, regard safety as the primary consideration rather

than cost. Limit pesticide treatments to target areas and avoid contaminating community interest spots. Use the most selective chemicals at minimum dosage rates, and avoid large scale use of pesticides that are known to concentrate in living organisms. The overall success and efficiency of a chemical control program hinges on the intelligent use of pesticides."

"Pesticides and public policy is the real concern in Washington, D. C.," Jerry Sonosky, Special Assistant to Senator Abraham Ribicoff, explained as he addressed the arborists. "Pesticides and their use are involved in public policy, and both are matters for public debate. Who is going to decide what the proper pesticide policy is: industry, agriculture, or 'Capitol Hill'?"

Sonosky promoted intelligent, integrated use of pesticides, not discontinuance. "Be concerned where we're going next; this is more important than past pest damages."

Next year's ISTC convention will be held in Cleveland, O., Aug. 28-Sept. 2, probably at the Cleveland Sheraton Hotel, but exact scheduling will be announced later, WTT learned.

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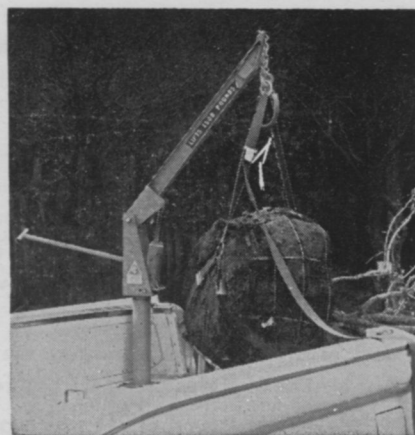
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