

# MUNICIPAL ARBORISTS:

# Street Lights a

**B**BETTER CARE for city trees can be expected, if for no other reason, from the fact that street lighting engineers and arborists have entered their fourth era of relationship: they're now cooperating with each other.

"Arborists are beginning to get a good understanding of the value of lighting; and lighting engineers are beginning to get a good understanding of the value of trees," Kirk M. Reid told the assembled Society of Municipal Arborists at its sixth annual meeting in October in Middleburg Heights, Ohio.

After progressing through the eras of shouting, grumbling, and learning, Reid said, "They've discovered their common goal is best serving the over-all public interest."

Reid, past president of the Illuminating Engineering Society and co-chairman of the Street Tree and Utility Conference, announced the selection of an SMA committee to work with lighting engineers to revise the manual for street lighting procedures and practices.

Committee members are Darrel Middlewood of Birmingham, Mich.; Joe Plante of Providence, R. I.;

Ralph Quinn, Jr., of Baltimore, Md., and Dick Boers of Toledo, Ohio.

Common problems have helped unite the groups, said Reid, naming three: vandalism, uncooperative property owners, and unsatisfactory employees. A discussion disclosed some others to work on.

"High intensity lights mounted six to eight feet above old ones have made additional trimming necessary," reported Joe Plante. "Guidelines on the reflecting quality of a tree are needed, and flush cuts should be made where possible."

Because new lighting can increase tree-trimming costs tremendously, Ralph Veverka, Cleveland city forester, felt that the question must be resolved on whether the responsibility and the cost should rest with the arborist or the utility.

"Blueprint placement" of utility poles without regard to trees that have been growing for years must end, added Joseph Krepop of Brooklyn, Ohio. Tom Tapp of Flint, Mich., cited an example—a light that ended up in the crown of a maple.

In Richmond, Va., the utility handles the trimming, said Jim Oates. Lamp size and location is deter-

mined by the municipality in Newark, N.J., added Robert Smith.

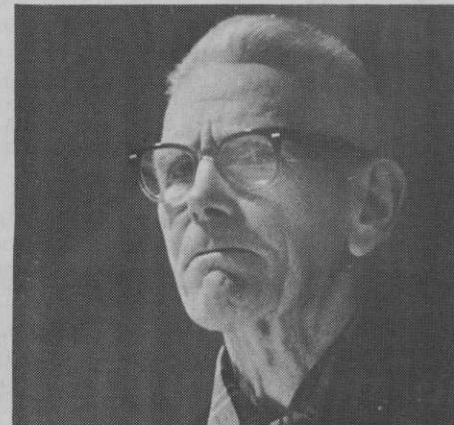
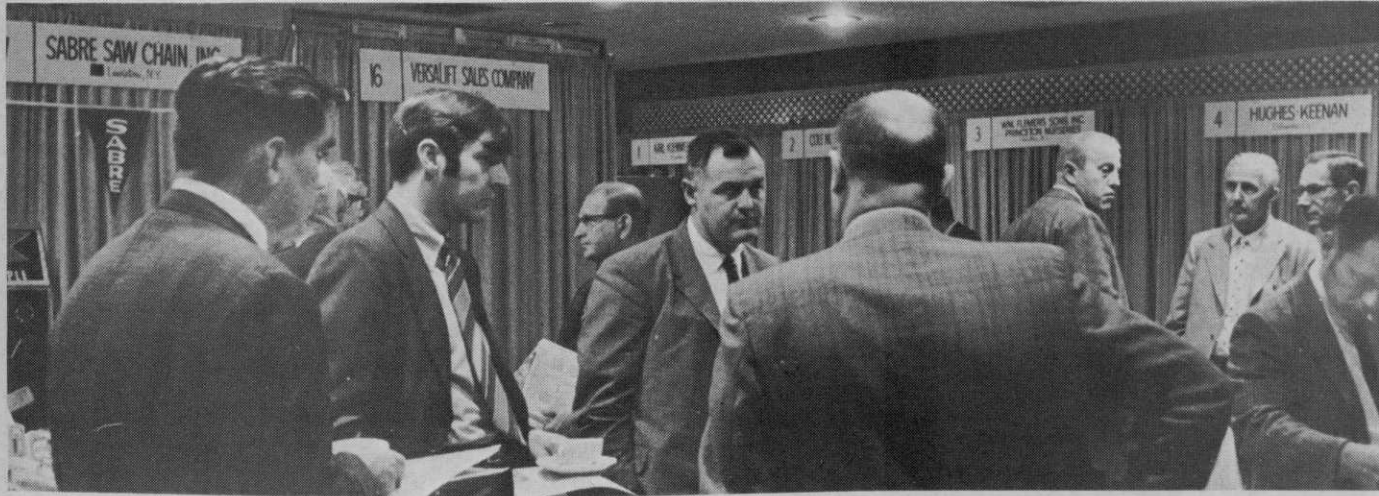
While there is a lot of talk about the value trees contribute to urban life, Dr. Ray Keen, horticulturist from Kansas State University, Manhattan, suggested that trees also could create slums.

Trees too big for the location and planted too close together have been known to make lawn-growing impossible and to cause constant paint-peeling on houses. People who care about the appearance of the place where they live then move out. The result, he said, is a steadily deteriorating neighborhood.

Reporting on the tree situation in Kansas, Keen said spraying had stopped completely in Manhattan. Topeka is spraying in parks only. Wichita is practicing intensive sanitation, taking advantage of the state law providing that if a private property owner won't take down a tree, the state will—and send him a bill.

"The big tragedy is in our smaller cities and towns," said Keen. "They don't have the trained specialists the big cities have."

The unique problem in the Heartlands—that once was prairie land,



# ees Can Mix, After All

Keen said, is that 85% or more of the city trees are elms.

"Arbor Day years ago used to mean the youngsters trouped to the nearest stream and brought back either an elm or a cottonwood. We may thank our lucky stars for Dutch Elm Disease. It will give us a chance to do the job right.

"A lot better planting is needed. Arborists should be a part of overall city planning.

"What are you going to plant 20 years from now? Nurserymen should know your needs at least 10 years in advance."

Not enough study has been done to determine what effect trees have on climate and reduction of wind velocity, believes Keen. He added that the search must be hastened to find suitable trees now growing. "In some cases, we don't have time to breed."

Tree research for the artificial environment has been directed in the past largely toward selecting for shape, size, and color, said Dr. Charles L. Wilson, USDA researcher from the federal shade tree laboratory at Delaware, Ohio. Work is just beginning to select varieties with



Emilio L. Fontana, right, of Omaha, Neb., passed the presidential reins to Robert Miller, municipal arborist at Dayton, Ohio.

consideration, backed by research, given to salt tolerance; air, soil and water pollution; root system development in a variety of soil types and conditions; and pollution reduction capability.

We need to know more about container-grown trees, he continued, including which trees are best adapted, what kind of containers are best, and what soil types are best.

Tree breeding is highly important because it speeds evolution, he said, "but first we must sell the importance of urban trees before we can sell urban tree research."

An uppermost value of tree research, Dr. Wilson stated, is that "to elevate the profession of arboriculture, we must elevate the level of our knowledge."

Warren Edman, vice-president of roadway lighting for the Holophane Co., of New York City, demonstrated the advances in street lamps. He showed how light output had been increased many times and how new lamp globes had been developed to direct the light where it is best needed.

Light output has brought about greater spacing between poles. Globes have been developed to direct that light on a more horizontal plane. It means, he said, that more attention must be directed to objects, such as trees, that obstruct the light. Tree trimming is going to become more critical, he predicted.

Street lighting will continue to improve and the cost will become less than the cost of operating an automobile's headlights, he said.

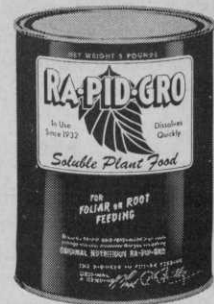
"I am confident we will see the day," Edman said, "when we will approach many of our cities at night and read the sign: 'Welcome, please turn off your headlights.'"

The arborists elected Robert Miller, municipal arborist of Dayton, Ohio, as president. Darrel Middlewood, superintendent of parks, Birmingham, Mich., was elected vice-president. Ed Scanlon, owner of Scanlon's Nursery, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, was re-elected to a three-year term as secretary-treasurer. Dick Boers, commissioner of forestry for Toledo, is the new member of the executive committee.



Coffee with commercial exhibitors provided a morning and afternoon break from adjacent educational sessions. Karl Kuemmerling & Co. brought its "traveling hardware store," left below. Richard Collins, sales representative, visits with Al DeShano, right, Condesco, Inc., Hamilton, Ohio, and Robert S. Miller of Dayton, Ohio. Near left is lead-off speaker Kirk M. Reid, past president of the Illuminating Engineering Society. Above, Frank Karpick gets the Sabre Saw Chain story from Ron Zinser, left, and F. D. Tubesing. (Ed. Note: Mr. Tubesing died unexpectedly Oct. 14 of a heart attack. He was 52.)

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