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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Problem?

I believe we can resolve the slight problem created by the printing of the crown gall article in the June, 1971 issue of "Weeds, Trees, and Turf." If possible, could you print a correction of the spelling of my name (middle initial "K") and a brief statement explaining the origin of the information contained in the article. A statement to the effect that the "article was condensed from a talk presented at the annual Ohio Nurserymen's Short Course, Columbus, Ohio, January 28, 1971" should suffice.

I am indeed pleased that you considered my talk worthy of publication. We do, however, have certain procedures to follow before we can publish an article which makes this situation a little unusual. But, I believe that we can resolve the problem with the above correction.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.—W. K. HOCK, Research Plant Pathologist, USDA, ARS, Delaware, Ohio.

Editor's Comment: We see no problem in publishing this information on crown gall. Either it is public information or it is not.

The data on crown gall printed in the June issue was taken directly and verbatim from a joint Ohio State University and USDA information piece which is published regularly in season and known as "Nursery Notes." The by-line from the official release also carried the wrong middle initial and this we regret.

However, in the public interest we feel we must make our position as a publisher clear. We do not condone the not uncommon practice of a public employee using public funds for research and then assuming the right to determine who will publish and in what order. The original telephoned objection which preceded the above letter referred to the fact that first publication of the crown gall data was to be in an association publication—this after the data was made public via a speech and via a government information sheet.—A. E.

Park Executive Opinion

The "OPEN LETTER"—CODE OF

ETHICS letter submitted by a group of Bay Area Park Directors and reprinted in your Weeds, Trees, and Turf issue of June 1971 expressed the opinion of hundreds of Park Executives. It is unfortunate that our fellow park men were unaware of the letter. I can assure you many signatures would have been affixed to the document.

Enclosed comments are from a letter sent to the American Park and Recreation Society three years ago in line with the thoughts expressed in the "OPEN LETTER."

My letter was ignored in its entirety by the American Park and Recreation Society in that not a word was printed as had been requested.

My comments:

1. Since the merger of the American Institute of Park Executives and the Recreation Society, a gradual downgrading of the Park Exec. is becoming more prevalent.

2. Demands by today's—civic organizations — requesting Park and Recreation Directors, place a higher priority on a recreation background than the more technical park background.

3. From an academic viewpoint—the scholastic requirement for a degree in recreation is far less demanding than a similar degree in agriculture.

The scope of endeavor of the park man is heavy with the technical requirements.

To cite a few:

Equipment of the trade, playground equipment planning, silviculture, agronomy, botany, pomology, entomology, chemistry, forestry, hydraulics, turf diseases, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, landscape architecture, geology, floriculture, design and development, golf course maintenance and development, marina design and development, tree surgery, and engineering.

4. The increasing demand for recreation or open space the past 4 years has led many civic organizations, primarily city and county to draw the conclusion that the "primo facie" of a director is a recreation background.

NOTHING can be further from the FACT—WITHOUT THE PARK FACILITIES YOU HAVE NO RECREATION.

Without the technical ability of the park men you have no parks to supply the facilities.

5. We do not intend herein to belittle the Recreation Director. He has a job to do, many perform to the best of their ability. It is one thing to know how many pounds of air go into a football, or how far apart the yardage markers should be. It is another thing to have a fine field of turf free of disease, of weeds, or mud to play the game on.

6. Many cities and counties that have set a pre-requisite on recreation, in preference to park or agricultural background have within 6 to 8 months after the initial employment of a recreation oriented director been forced to employ an asst. director to actually administer the parks and the requirements of the community.

Does this procedure amplify the basic principles of economical or efficient government?

We do not think so—

The primary purpose of our comments was an attempt to illustrate the dismal failure of merging into one, two factors, with total disregard for the many years of study, responsibility and work that was required to obtain the luxury of administrative ability and experience.

Political and civic leaders have become aware of the ecological and environmental crisis. They are also aware of the vital part the Park Director plays in its success or failure. ROBERT G. PELUSI, 2291 Streblow Dr., Napa, Calif.

Park Assn. President Speaks

In the June, 1971, issue of **Weeds, Trees and Turf** you have printed a letter from Allan W. Hammer, Pasco Balzarini, Jules L. Francard, Ted Harpainter and Grayson Mosher. The letter is addressed to me as President of the American Park and Recreation Society and it takes issue with the definition of "parks and recreation" as stated in the APRS Code of Ethics. It reads as follows:

"Parks and recreation provide the opportunities for leisure living which is satisfying, meaningful and necessary for the purposeful fulfillment of life: mental, physical, emotional, so-

cial and cultural. They include the leadership, services, and facilities desirable to achieve such a quality of life."

On May 24, 1971, I sent the following letter to the gentlemen listed above:

"Please forgive the delay in my answering your letter of April 1, 1971. Your letter went to our office in Washington, was sent to me and I have been trying to run down some information to include in the letter. In order not to delay longer, I have asked Earl Gaylor to send you some names—see accompanying letter.

"We appreciate receiving your thoughtful comments, especially the proposed definition. A copy of your letter had been forwarded to our Advisory Committee on National Issues and Policies for review and recommendation. (Earl Gaylor is Chairman.)

"You will be interested to know that about 200 APRS members participated in drawing up the Code of Ethics. All State Societies were involved, including CPRS. (Earl will send you names.)

"Part 4 of the Code provides for amendments as follows: 'Upon written request to the APRS Executive Secretary by five percent (5%) of the voting members, or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, amendment(s) to the Code of Ethics are to be submitted by mail ballot to the voting membership of the society . . .'

"Work on the Code of Ethics was initiated by the APRS Board in the Fall of 1969. The Code was unanimously adopted in the Fall of 1970, and mailed out in March, 1971.

"Again, thank you for your letter."

Thank you for printing the letter as it opens up new lines of communication and give APRS an opportunity to share its ongoing work with many new people. I hope you will be able to find some space for at least a portion of my reply. HENRY T. SWAN, President, National Recreation and Park Assn.

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