



Why our Chipper- Shredder has 2 mouths to feed.

Only Chippit has two hoppers for efficiency. Feed leaves into one hopper and the shredding flails do their job better. Feed limbs as big as 3 inches in diameter into the angled hopper and the chipping knife turns them into chips fast. You can even feed 2 hoppers at the same time. Chippit's powerful 8 hp engine can handle the job. Compacts on a ratio of 10 to 1.

Built-in safety features and rugged construction make the Chippit the ideal chipper-shredder for yard work. Write for prices and information.

Chippit

OMARK INDUSTRIES, INC.
Chippit Marketing Dept.
9701 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97222



On The Job In A Bucket

Hoosier Arborist Tells How

There's a growing use of buckets and towers among arborists and tree care companies. The reasons are obvious. A skilled basket operator can make short work of a big trimming job.

MORE and more arborists across the country are retiring the rope and saddle in favor of modern personnel aerial platforms. These buckets or towers, as they are called in the trade, enable a trimmer to work faster and accomplish a more professional job with fewer in-tree accidents than ever before.

Aerial towers in one form or another have been a popular idea ever since the first climber got tired of swinging around in trees like his ancestors. He devised lifts, cranes and other mechanical devices with which to maneuver, many with more than mild success. In the last score of years manufacturers like Mobile Aerial Towers, Inc. have become interested in the climber's plight. Today, their powerful towers can effortlessly carry the "climber" to the uppermost branches in a matter of seconds.

To get a better insight on the operation and performance of these "one arm giants" we talked with Ralph E. Mudrack, city arborist assigned to the parks department of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, the home of Mobile Aerial Towers. With the factory located nearby we figured that here would be a "test situation under fire." Any small problem with

a Hi-Ranger tower would be called immediately to the attention of MAT personnel.

Ralph was in Franke Park, a large city-owned park that comprises better than 355 acres, when we arrived. His men were trimming dead branches from a gigantic oak located near the zoo. Perched high above our heads and comfortably working from the confines of a Hi-Ranger bucket, tower operator Daniel Parisot elevated up and down and rotated in and around the tree just like a humming bird searching for nectar.

"That's what so fascinating about these towers," said Ralph, as he watched it move around in the tree. "There isn't anyplace that a man can't go in a tree with them. We have completely retired the rope and saddle. By the time a man can get a saddle on and coil his rope, a tower operator can have the job done."

Things have not always been that easy, however. Ralph described the situation several years ago when he had to combine several crews to take a tree down—the old way. "Trees were a major project," he said.

They are still a major project, but



Ralph E. Mudrack is city arborist assigned to the parks department of Ft. Wayne, Ind. He is responsible for tree care for 450 miles of streets and 54 parks in this Hoosier city.

in another way. Ralph is responsible for the maintenance of about 100,000 trees between the curb and the sidewalk and throughout the parks. This is no small job when you consider there are roughly 450 miles of streets and 54 parks in the city of Ft. Wayne.

"We updated about the time Dutch Elm Disease became prevalent. Elms started to die and we needed the proper equipment to remove them and spray for the beetle," he said "We bought mist blower sprayers, wench and dump trucks and our first towers. This upgrading has continued and today in addition to the ground equipment we have five towers." (A sixth is on order.)

After the initial training sessions, tree crews quickly found many advantages to these new buckets. Some reported fewer cuts were necessary to top out a tree while others pointed to the time savings in not having to construct rigging. All operators could get over a tree faster, meaning increased trees covered in a day.

Ralph noticed that while towers haven't eliminated lifting and slipping injuries, accidents in trees have

(continued on page 32)

IN A BUCKET (from page 29)

declined sharply. "We no longer have such injuries as cutting across the knees with saws, gouging in the sides, scrapes and scratches," he says.

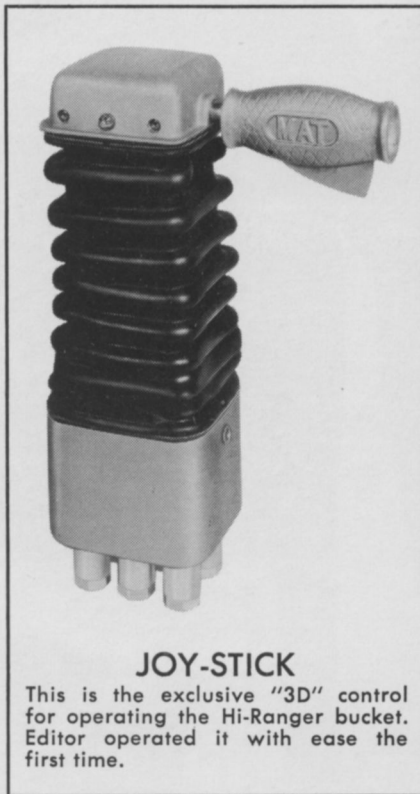
Ralph's excellent in-tree safety record with Hi-Ranger towers is directly attributed to two things. He selects top men to operate the buckets. And all operators follow rigid safety rules. "When a man is in a bucket, he's comfortable. If not, he can move to a position where he is comfortable," he says. "Very few cuts are made from an uncomfortable position. We stress that if you have to bring the bucket down and move the truck, that's the thing to do."

Other safety rules include:

1. Don't reach from the bucket.
2. Stay in the bucket at all times.
3. Don't stand on top of the bucket.
4. Wear a safety harness at all times.
5. One man per bucket.
6. Don't use the bucket as a battering ram.
7. Wear a safety helmet (hard hat) at all times.
8. Visually and mechanically inspect tower daily.
9. Using a rope as a gin pole is out.
10. Always put outrigger booms out.

Perhaps the most popular item of the Hi-Ranger is the exclusive "3D" one-hand control. One arborist

who climbed into the cockpit (bucket) for the first time likened the control to the "joy stick" on an old piper cub. Whatever direction you want to go, you move the lever thusly and the response is immedi-



JOY-STICK

This is the exclusive "3D" control for operating the Hi-Ranger bucket. Editor operated it with ease the first time.

ate. Move it up, move it down, push it forward, pull it back, twist it right, twist it left or combine control motions simultaneously. The platform moves precisely where you

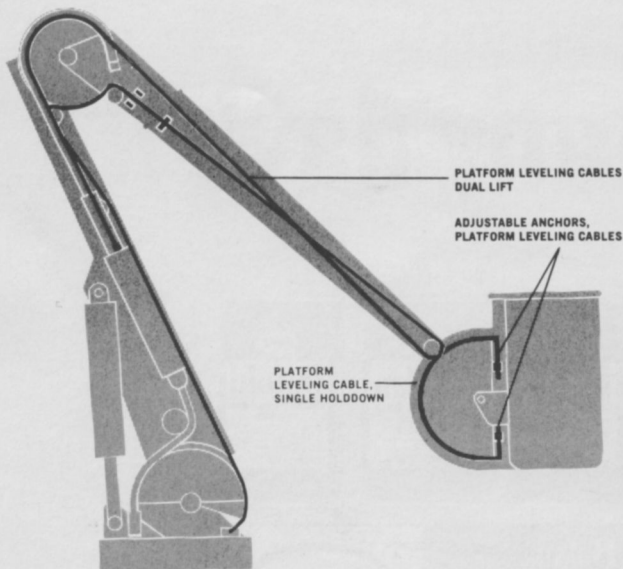
want it. Let go the handle for an instant and the automatic safety interlock "freezes" all movement.

Mobile Aerial Towers technicians point out that the bucket is automatically self-leveling in a positive fashion. In other words, it will remain parallel to a tree all the way to the top if you want it to. Other buckets can only "kiss" the tree at some point, then reposition to "kiss" again. Arborists repeatedly say that this one feature stands out above others in this market.

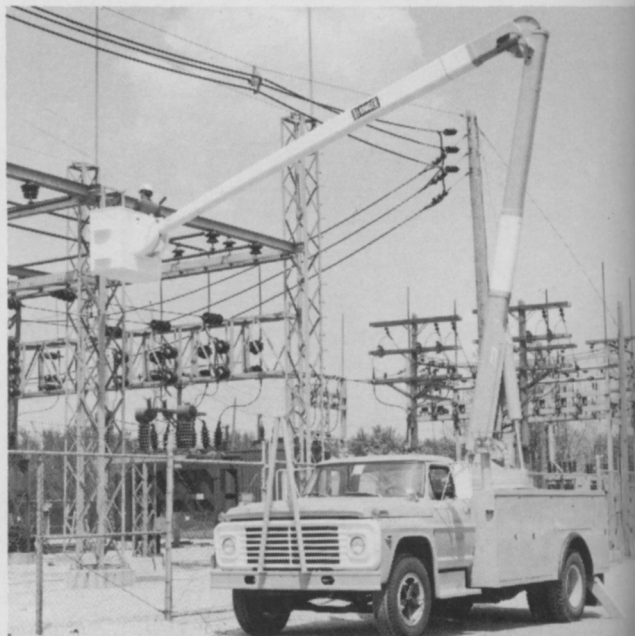
Another feature that Ralph likes is the fact that the bucket is positioned on the end of the tower, not to the side of it. "We've tried buckets mounted on the side," he says. "From one side it is fine but just try working from the other side. It's horrible! Ninety percent of our work is with trees between the sidewalk and the curb. You can't pull a tower into a resident's yard. You've got to have something that permits access to both sides of a tree equally. The bucket mounted on our Hi-Ranger towers will do that because it is attached to the end.

"So if you come on this side of the tree, you are right next to your work; if you go to the other side of the tree, you are right next to your work. You can come in and set right down in the crotches and do a cable job. You can literally put that bucket any place in a tree!"

During a busy season, Ralph will keep his towers on the go most of the time. "We figure we have be-



PLATFORM SELF-LEVELING SYSTEM: When upper and/or lower booms are elevated or lowered, the work platform (bucket) remains level by compensating action of the leveling cables system. This clever device keeps operator at right angles to the ground at all times.



Hi-Ranger towers can be used in utility line work, too. Note that white portions on the booms are constructed of fiberglass. Each tower must pass an electrical test of 150 thousand volts.

tween \$18,000 and \$22,000 invested in each tower," he says. To get a return on investment, towers must be operated regularly. Under normal conditions, a tower for this Hoosier arborist will be ready to trade in 10 to 12 years.

Because Ft. Wayne has many stately trees adjacent to the curb, workers often find utility wires to work around. Ralph says that his towers are highly insulated, particularly in the upper boom and bucket areas, decreasing the risk of an electrical shock. Nevertheless, "in training our people, we bring utility experts in to explain about certain wires, which ones to stay away from, and which ones you are relatively safe in working close to," he says.

Mobile Aerial Towers people second this move. Accordingly, every tower manufactured is subjected to an electrical test of 150 thousand volts. In addition, other rigid tests include a three times structural overload test and a one-and-a-half times tipping test.

At day's end we left Ralph knowing that as an arborist he is pleased with this type bucket. It fits in his operation and with his other equipment. His 35 employees find that the Hi-Ranger is not just another piece of machinery, but rather a tool needed to accomplish a job.

One point Ralph made over coffee during the day seems to fit here. "We'd have to substantially increase our workforce in order to handle the number of trees we currently trim if we didn't have towers," he said. "We don't want to do that. We want to keep the high caliber men we have now. Mobile Aerial Towers have the kind of tower that we like better than any we've seen so far."

Colorful Tree Care Booklet Offered By Davey

Growing public interest in planting and maintaining trees to help improve the environment led Davey Tree to expand and completely revise the "Davey Guide to Tree Beauty and Tree Care." The result is a new 36-page booklet on tree care designed with the homeowner in mind.

The new four-color illustrated edition provides technical information in layman's language to help homeowners determine the general health of their trees, provide for their care, and select the most suitable tree, locate and plant it properly.

The new booklet explains why



"No Flywheel" design improves performance and productivity

M-B FITCHBURG CHIPPERS give you more wood chipping capacity and output *without a flywheel!* Our exclusive spring-activated feed plate instantly adjusts to wood size up to the unit's rated capacity. You get faster, smoother, quieter chipping.

Best of all, there is *no flywheel* to cause trouble. Veteran chipper operators know

that flywheels can tear apart, are hard to stop, and retard re-acceleration. You won't have these problems with M-B FITCHBURG exclusive design.

There's much more to the outstanding M-B FITCHBURG CHIPPER story. Return the Reader Service card now for free literature and specifications on chippers up to 7" round wood capacity. C-72



M-B COMPANY

New Holstein,
Wisconsin 53061
Dept. WTT-8
(414) 898-4261

For More Details Circle (112) on Reply Card

tree care is necessary, and important in the effort to beautify our land. It explains the life functions of a tree, shows the layman how to recognize signs of trouble, and provides a calendar of tree care to indicate when work should be done.

How to plant small, bare-root trees, move large trees to home grounds, and protect trees from insect attack and disease are described and illustrated with charts and photographs.

How to select trees for shade, flowering or special effects, wind-breaks and screens, and fall color is also covered, presenting lists of popular and new varieties, their height at maturity and other characteristics such as climatic zones, color of blossoms, and rate of growth.

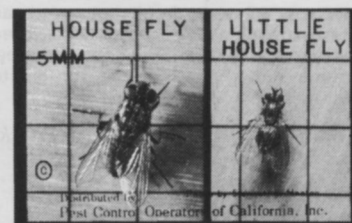
Recommended "do's and don'ts" help the homeowner plan the best location for new trees, avoid common landscape mistakes, and create grounds that will increase in beauty and desirability.

The new booklet is offered at \$1.00 per copy. Copies may be ordered by writing Davey Tree, Department 9C, Kent, Ohio 44240.

NOW AVAILABLE

THE ULTIMATE IN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING SLIDES

Live Specimens of Insects in authentic, natural color on 35 MM slides.



For additional details and complete list of slides available write to Pest Control Operators of California, Inc., 3444 West First Street, Los Angeles, California 90004.

For More Details Circle (107) on Reply Card