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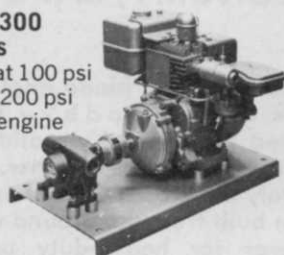
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HATS "ON" TO US

Hard Hats & Tree Men In my own company, I'm only the boss, and when I get up in the morning I put my plant on, then put my hard hat on my head. I feel it is the best insurance coverage possible for a treeman's head, and the company pays the \$5 premium, but the policy only covers you when it covers you. Hard hats are good insurance.

Like your article in July issue on synthetic ropes says, most tree men resist change, but these hard headed souls would still be wise to get accustomed to wearing hard hats. Some of us here in Westchester have made it a condition of employment spelled out in the job application along with other safety rules. If a man is fired for violation of safety rules which are so part of the conditions of employment, in New York he cannot collect unemployment until he works another 14 weeks. Besides OSHA says THOU SHALL WEAR an approved hard hat whenever in the vicinity of any overhead hazard.

Maybe you can help editorially. I'd like to see hard hats worn a lot more often. Safety's Cheap! **John A. Crockett, vice president, Westchester County Tree Protective Association, Inc.**

JUST THE FACTS

You may construe this letter as fan mail. I am an ardent environmentalist, Sierra Club member, etc, etc, who, as a plant scientist receives selected publications I think you do an excellent job of presenting the new FDA and EPA ruling, pronouncements, etc. without using the usual wild, bitter comments Most of us realize that all chemical or all natural will not work, but emotion will not solve the problem either. We must continue to work together for the common good; not just the good of one side.

So, even if you have an almost uncontrollable urge to "blast out" when a new chemical is removed

or restricted from use, just remember that you might lose a group of readers that really just want to help solve the problems, not obstruct for the sake of obstruction. **Fred R. Rickson, associate professor of botany, Oregon State University.**

OBJECTION SUSTAINED

Mr. Hank Harvey, Jr.'s article, "Arborist Shop Talk" in the October issue advocates a "limb-over-a-wire-technique." This very definitely is an unsafe practice. Use of this technique could result in the wires burning down injuring a person on the ground. Under certain conditions, conductor contact could cause a voltage increase thereby damaging televisions, refrigerators, appliances, etc.

The American National Standards Institute appointed a committee designated as Z133 to develop "Safety Requirements For Tree Pruning, Trimming, Removal and Repair." This standard was developed by representatives of industry, government, trade and educational groups, including U.S. Department of Labor and OSHA. Because of the hazards associated with the practices advocated by Mr. Harvey, we feel compelled to respond to his article.

This standard specifically identifies electrical hazards associated with tree work in Section 4, Section 8.2.1 and 8.2.5. The practice of throwing a rope over the wires or using a pole saw as discussed in the article is contrary to the standard.

The only part of Mr. Harvey's statement that we can agree with is his last sentence, "Call the Utility Company." I think if he had said this in the beginning, he would have been providing a service for the industry. There are already too many accidents involving tree trimmers as evidence by high Workmen's Compensation rates. **R. E. Abbott and G. S. King, Co-chairmen, Z133.**

Lockwood-Hardie Sprayers Featured in New Brochure

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