

I have now submitted my annual report to the members of Connecticut Tree Protective Association, but I thought you would be interested in our activities.

To begin with, secretary Oscar Stone, Charlie Barr and I have appeared before sub-committees of the Connecticut State Legislature. I met with individual legislators many times in response to bills in the State concerning our profession and its members.

Jerry Stone and I attended the planting of a memorial oak tree at Cromwell, Connecticut in honor of Neal Millane our first president.

I have met with Dan Lufkin, former Commissioner of Environment, and discussed with him our side of our problems. Subsequently, our Secretary Oscar Stone wrote a wonderful letter to him explaining our operations concerning the spraying we do.

The severe ice storm that covered the State last December 17th and 18th kept our members busy and will continue to keep us busy for quite awhile. We received a letter of thanks and appreciation from Antony Wallace, President of Conn. Light & Power Co., for the services rendered by our members during the ice storm. We also received national publicity on NBC television showing member's equipment working un-

der adverse conditions during the ice storm.

Jerry Stone and I appeared on the New Haven Station WELI on John Birchard's talk show on Sunday, Dec. 23rd, for two hours — 6 to 8 o'clock. We answered many questions and made comments on the ice storm, informing the general public not to panic and to avoid doing business with the fly-by-night tree men. Hire only our members who are reliable and charge fair prices. This not only put our organization before the public but kept them well informed about who and what we are. John Birchard of the Radio Station asked if Jerry and I would appear again to participate in another two hour talk show . . .

John Stashenko, President Connecticut Tree Protective Association.

Your item on the Agrico price increases in the "Government News/Business" section of your last issue (Jan. 1974) omitted some important information and created some misunderstanding for Agrico in the trade.

The points in order of importance were: 1. Although the price increases were effective January 1, the company said it was honoring the lower prices on orders received and scheduled for de-

livery January 31, 1974. 2. All Agrico customers were notified in advance of the price increase and given an opportunity to place or increase orders for delivery by January 31 at lower prices. 3. Only part of the orders at lower prices for delivery by January 31, were able to be filled from inventories of products purchased and manufactured at lower cost and that Agrico was absorbing the additional costs of fulfilling all of the orders for delivery by January 31.

The absence of this information apparently led a number of your readers to conclude that what Agrico had presented to its dealers as a generous way of handling the price increase problem, was based on nothing more than the company having ample supplies of lower priced products from which to fill orders. This was not the case. . . . Agrico did indeed absorb significant costs in carrying out this policy for the benefit of its dealers. . . . **Merton Fiur Associates, Inc., Merton Fiur, president.**

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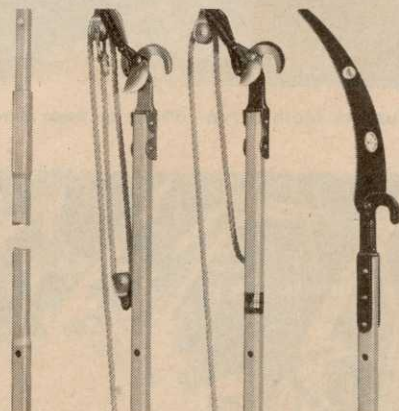
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