

Service To Industry

During the National Arborist Association executive meeting in 1968, Paul S. Walgren of the Walgren Tree Experts, West Hartford, Conn. made the statement that the tree industry needed a measuring stick for employees. The man in the field needed knowledge of the trade in order to progress from laborer to a position where the employer and customer had confidence that they were receiving qualified workmanship.

Bill Lanphear of Forest City Tree Protection Company, Cleveland, Ohio suggested a Home Study Program be developed. Much discussion followed and the executive secretary of NAA was instructed to research the possibilities and means of developing a program.

In June 1969 a proposal was submitted to the executive members and accepted based on the approval of the NAA membership. The executive secretary then promoted the program by traveling to six locations throughout the U. S.

After some frustrating delays Ed Irish, Charles F. Irish Company, Detroit, Mich. and Bill Lanphear started working on the program.

They are responsible for the successful writing of the course's 16 lessons.

The course has been offered to the tree industry for approximately two years. The following are comments from recent graduates of the course. They are presented as testimony of an industry group seeking to gain knowledge through its members.

Ed Irish (l) and Bill Lanphear



"Growing environmental concern has produced a demand for better trained people in many phases of industrial development," says Dennis M. Luczewski (r) of the Public Service Co. of New Hampshire. "The Professional Home Study Program for arborists is a big step forward in attaining levels of greater efficiency and increased productivity. My primary function with PSCO as technical assistant, is right-of-way maintenance. Paramount among these functions are initial line clearing, side trimming, selective clearing, roadside beautification and brush control."



Elden Poletti has been an employee of Griffin Tree & Landscape Co., Santa Barbara, Calif. for nearly 25 years. "Having learned something of the anatomy of a tree, how the various parts function, and its relationship and dependence on the soil which supports it," he says, "I can now visualize what reaction can be expected by the treatment I may perform. Although it is not difficult for me to realize when a tree is in trouble, I now know the areas in which to look for specific symptoms such as foliage, trunk and roots. By taking this course I am better prepared to discuss and explain to the owner what I propose to accomplish in a particular tree. This, I feel, benefits me, my employer and the client."

"As office manager and secretary of our company, it has been my responsibility to answer questions on the planting and general care of trees and shrubs when the men are not in the office," says Mrs. Doris Haddock, Haddock's Landscape & Tree Service Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, Canada. "Before taking the NAA Home Study Program, I knew the HOW of tree planting and the general care of same, but now I know the WHY. I can, therefore answer questions with much more confidence."



"A person does not realize how little he really knows until after taking a course like NAA's Home Study Program," reports Jim Boling, park supervisor, Medford, Ore. "The course has been especially helpful to me when it comes to correctly diagnosing a particular tree problem. I highly recommend the course to anyone wishing to know more about trees."



"I was familiar with the material but there was a lot of little things that really came out," comments Paul Leimeister, Larry Holkenborg Nursery, Inc., Sandusky, Ohio. "The pollution part was the most fascinating. I learned how soil fills affect trees, the preventive and corrective measures to take when the problem is encountered."



"Tree identification is an important part of my work," says Carmen Di Mardo, Monroe Tree & Landscape, Inc., Rochester, N. Y. "I found that the professional course for arborists was a great help in identification as well as in diagnosing tree diseases. The chapter dealing with spraying techniques was particularly interesting."



"The NAA Home Study Program is the best course on arboriculture that 'I've ever taken in the 17 years I have been employed in plant care work,'" says Willie Ward (l) a heavy equipment operator at General Electric's Appliance Park — East Columbia, Md. "It is a 'Power-Packed, Fact-Filled' course."



"This course really puts the business of being an arborist in an entirety," says Robert R. Lenz, Parkway Tree Surgeons, Henrietta, N. Y. "It taught me details that would take years in the field to learn but had the advantage over college because I was able to apply what I learned while continuing to learn." Reports Richard R. Lenz: "This program should become as important to the tree man as his rope and saddle. It is a good investment both for learning and a continuing reference over the years. We feel that this is the only writings that really explain tree work in a way that can be applied commercially and at the same time is condensed where there is no wasted time in learning."

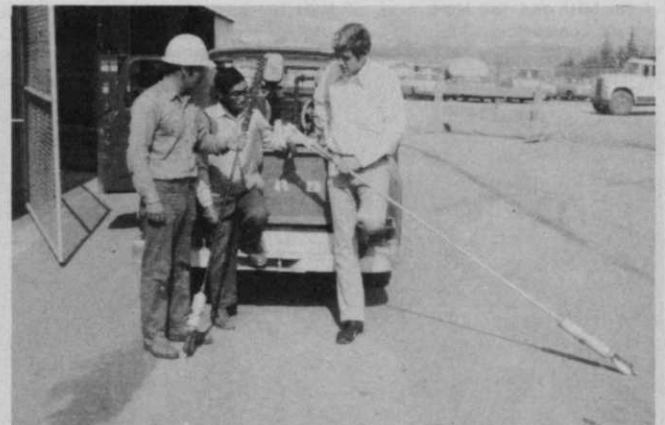


"The value of the knowledge received far exceeds the cost of the courses," says Joe Teixeira, (r) City of Walnut Creek, Calif. "I am pleased that my city and superiors had the farsightedness to realize the course value as a training aid and chose me to take it. It appears that the National Association put a great deal of thought into the course material and kept it interesting as well as easy to study. It is clearly written, concise and to the point."



"Now that I have completed all 16 lessons in the course, I can evaluate just what benefits it had to offer," says Bruce Egan, Hudson Tree Service, Belleville, Ill. "I had some previous knowledge of how to care for trees. But I really didn't know just why I was doing certain things."

John P. Stephens was hired by the city of Lynchburg, Va. in 1972 to fill the position of horticulturist. The position included the supervision of the forestry division, reports Floyd K. McKenna, director, department of parks and beautification. His background was in ornamental horticulture. He felt he needed further study of shade trees and their related insect and disease problems. He enrolled in the NAA Home Study Program. The information proved so beneficial that he enrolled in the advance course. The knowledge Stephens gained from this study is used daily in diagnosing tree problems, supervising pruning and surgery, equipment use and selection of trees for replacement.



"The NAA Home Study Program was not only of great benefit to me, but to my employer, and to new employees just starting out in arboriculture," remarks Donald R. West, street tree operations, Santa Barbara County, Calif. "Beneficial parts were sections relating to the diagnosis of tree and insect problems."