

### "End of Line" Says Cushman

Outboard Marine Corporation announced that it will cease the manufacture and sale of its Cushman golf cars when the current production schedule is completed in December 1975.

Charles D. Strang, president of this manufacturer of Evinrude and Johnson outboard motors and other leisure products, stated, "Earnings from our golf cars have been declining for several years, and we incurred losses from the sale of this product in 1974 and in the current year. Increased competition from low-priced foreign imports has been a significant factor in this deteriorating profit picture." Strang added, "Careful analysis has convinced us we can utilize our capital and personnel better on other products."

Strang indicated that golf cars represented approximately 2 percent of OMC's total sales in its 1974 fiscal year. He also commented that present estimates of the loss resulting from the phasing out of golf car operations will not have a material effect on OMC's earnings. He stated, "Preliminary data indicates that OMC net earnings for the July 1975 quarter will exceed \$1.50 per share, after reflecting estimated golf car losses. The company's net sales for this third fiscal quarter should exceed \$155,000,000." In its strike-affected quarter ended June 30, 1974, OMC reported earnings of 44 cents per share which was restated for subsequently discontinued snow vehicle operations to 69 cents per share on sale of \$123,200,000, both on continuing operations.

Herbert A. Jespersen, OMC vice president and division manager of the OMC-Lincoln division said, "Commercial and turf vehicles and parts which represent approximately two-thirds of Cushman's sales are unaffected by today's decision. Consistent with OMC's policy, service and parts for golf cars will be available for a minimum of seven years."

expedite analyses and collection of data for minor-use pesticide clearances. CSRS said the need for such laboratories was evident after passage of the 1972 Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act, which increased requirements for registration of pesticides.

Scientists in the Western region have developed a list of 50 chemicals that need registration so they can be legally used under the new law. According to the scientists, there are an enormous number of chemicals which are not presently registered for use on ornamentals, grass, and seed crops, but are sorely needed in production practices.

The laboratory at Davis will serve the western states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Guam. Wendell W. Kilgore, Chairman of the department of environmental toxicology of the University of California at Davis, is the laboratory's principal investigator.

### Lethal Yellowing Research Boosted by New State Funds

Intensified research efforts, boosted by a special \$200,000 state appropriation, are now underway as Florida scientists seek answers to lethal yellowing, the mysterious disease killing thousands of the state's scenic coconut palm trees.

The disease, first spotted 20 years ago in Key West, is creeping northward and now endangers over a half million coconut palms throughout the southern half of Florida. Swaying palms that once graced picture post cards are left bare, looking like a string of telephone poles. Fears are that unless the disease can be stopped it will continue northward posing a threat to coconut and possibly other palms throughout the State.

Backed by the new research funds from the state legislature, a team of scientists from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is hoping to find the missing pieces of the lethal yellowing puzzle.

The scientists, based in Fort

### Standard Oil Subsidiary Files Appeal for More Gas

The Standard Oil Co. (Ohio) and its subsidiary, Vistron Corporation, have appealed to the Federal Power Commission for help in obtaining adequate supplies of natural gas to produce needed fertilizer.

The natural gas is used in the nitrogen fertilizer plant at Vistron's complex at Lima, Ohio which is the exclusive source of nitrogen fertilizer for nearly all of Sohio's 108 bulk blend plants in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas.

"Curtailments earlier this year from our supplier, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., ranged from 30 to 55 percent of normal deliveries," Stevens said, "and seriously crippled Vistron's production."

He said Columbia Gas recently notified Vistron that deliveries will be reduced by 60 percent, beginning November 1, for the five-month winter period which would further aggravate the present shortage of fertilizer.

Vistron asked the FPC to direct Columbia Gas to deliver an average of 50,070 mcf per calendar day and 54,960 per operating day to produce the required amount of fertilizer for Vistron's customers.

### USDA Appropriates Funds, Speeds Pesticide Clearance

Data for clearing pesticides for uses not presently filled by industry registrations will be developed by the University of California at Davis under a \$50,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Davis campus' department of environmental toxicology has been designated as the leader laboratory for the western region — one of four regional laboratories — to develop and implement a program to help register pesticides for uses on minor or specialty crops.

USDA's Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS), which made the grant, said Davis and three other regional laboratories would

Lauderdale, seek the cause of the disease, how it is transmitted and how it can be stopped. Lethal yellowing began in Jamaica almost a century ago. It spread to other areas hitting Key West in 1955. From 1955 to 1968, it killed about 15,000 coconut palms in Key West, then jumped to Stock Island, then Key Largo, then Miami and Coral Gables and now has crept as far north as Juno Beach in Palm Beach County.

A quarantine is now in effect for movement of a dozen species of palms, including the coconut palm, out of Broward, Collier, Dade, Martin, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties — all affected areas.

The symptoms of lethal yellowing begin with "shelling" or the premature dropping of coconuts. Leaves die, turning brown and yellow. The tree soon dies, usually within six months of exhibiting the first symptoms of the disease.

From former research, IFAS scientists have some clues to help solve the lethal yellowing mystery. Indications are that the disease is caused by a tiny microorganism called a mycoplasma-like organism or MLO. MLO's are like bacteria but have a soft rather than rigid cell wall like bacteria. Evidence seems to indicate the MLO's are taxied from tree to tree by insects taking up residence on coconut palms and it may be any one variety providing the free taxi service. "There certainly are a good many pieces we need to complete this puzzle," said Dr. L. H. Purdy, chairman of the IFAS Plant Pathology Department.

Infected trees can be granted some borrowed time by injecting doses of an antibiotic into the trunks under about 80 to 100 pounds of pressure. These injections hold off the symptoms for about four months when another injection is required, explained Dr. Purdy.

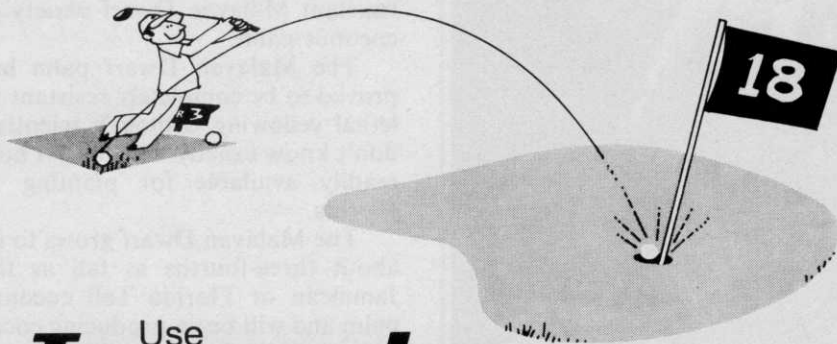
Meanwhile, as research continues, the Florida Cooperative Extension service, the Extension arm of IFAS, is also active in a program to help property owners and government officials stop lethal yellowing.

County agents in affected areas hold seminars and distribute literature to help people identify the disease. Some county agents — such as in Monroe and Collier Counties —

(continued)

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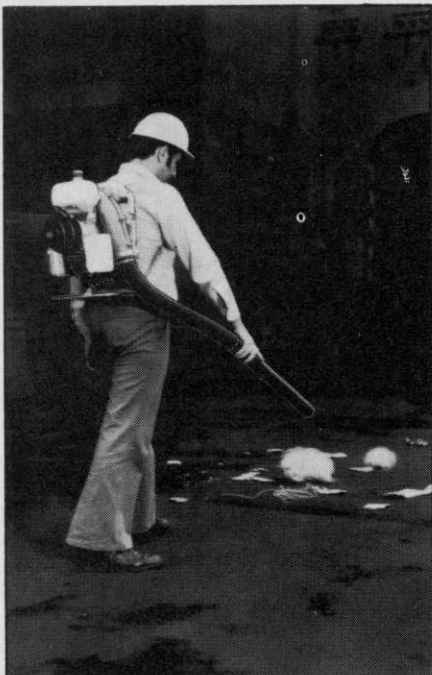
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also help coordinate inspection and injection programs with various government agencies, urge removal of all diseased trees and give instruction on how to plant the disease-resistant Malayan Dwarf variety of coconut palm.

The Malayan Dwarf palm has proved to be completely resistant to lethal yellowing, although scientists don't know exactly why, and is now readily available for planting in Florida.

The Malayan Dwarf grows to be about three-fourths as tall as the Jamaican or Florida Tall coconut palm and will begin producing coconuts at about five feet tall when it is five to seven years old.

Dr. Purdy suggests that injections continue allowing time for replanting of the Malayan variety.

## Earning Power Restored Economy Up, Says Simon

Real consumer earning power is being restored and the nation back on the road to economic recovery, William E. Simon, Secretary of the U. S. Treasury Department, reports.

Simon, writing for the Ryan quarterly dealer magazine, said the picture began brightening early this year when inventory backlogs were sharply reduced. He said recovery gained further momentum this quarter when retail sales rose at more than a 10 percent rate.

"That process had to get underway before our economy could rebound," Simon wrote. "Other indicators also show we are poised for a healthy recovery by late this year."

Simon said real consumer earning power has increased because interest rates have tumbled, inflation has dropped out of the double-digit bracket, and tax cuts have provided consumers more disposable income without corresponding inflation.

Although unemployment edged up to 9.2 percent in early summer, and is expected to remain around 8 percent through 1976, Simon says employment has increased for the first time in more than six months.

"That is extremely encouraging," Simon noted. "Our objective the next two years is to ensure strong enough recovery to reduce unemployment, but to avoid infla-

tionary government spending programs that cannot stimulate the economy until we are already moving toward full capacity."

## New Superior Tree Seeds Exchanged in Outer Space

A special box containing superior tree seeds developed by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, was delivered to the American flight crew of the Apollo-Soyuz space mission at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. The seeds were given by the Astronauts to the Russian Cosmonauts as part of an exchange of gifts in space during the flight which began on July 15.

The seeds, and their container, are both products of Forest Service research. The seeds are genetically superior white spruce seeds which have been developed by Forest Service scientists to produce faster growing trees of exceptional height and shape. The spruce tree seeds were developed at the Institute of Forest Genetics in Rhineland, Wis., which has a climate similar to that of Moscow in the U.S.S.R. where the seeds will be planted. Enough superior tree seeds to grow an acre are being given the Cosmonauts.

The top half of the box in which the seeds were presented is made from chemically stabilized walnut, a development of Forest Service wood utilization research. The chemically treated wood won't shrink, warp, or rot, and is resistant to bugs, disease and decay.

The bottom half of the container is a composition wood made from 100 percent recycled fiber made from discarded municipal waste. The technique to recycle wood fiber waste material into new products was pioneered by the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis.

The seeds were recently presented in Washington, D.C., to Chester M. Lee, Program Director of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by Forest Service Chief John R. McGuire. He said the seeds were symbols of the development of forest resources which has helped the United States and the Soviet Union to become world leaders.

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## USDA Issues New Publication For Moving Living Organisms

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a new publication that gives general information on the legal requirements for moving live pests, pathogens, and disease vectors of plants into and within the United States.

"This flyer is specifically intended for persons planning to move living plant-related organisms for scientific purposes," said James O. Lee, acting deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

"Federal regulations prohibit the importation and interstate transport of plant pests and pathogens unless permits are obtained in advance from APHIS. In each case, risks to U.S. plant life are carefully weighed against expected benefits, before decisions are made on issuing permits," he explained.

Lee explained further that many foreign pests, not harmful to plant life in their native country, can become very destructive in the United States where natural enemies to curb their populations may not occur.

"Although all of nature may be

regarded as the scientist's laboratory," Lee continued, "some researchers unwittingly endanger the environment in the U.S. by introducing pests contrary to quarantine regulations."

The new USDA publication lists the types of organisms requiring permits and spells out the procedure for applying for a permit.

Free copies of the publication, *How to Move Live Pests, Pathogens, and Disease Vectors of Plants* (PA No. 1110), may be obtained from local APHIS-USDA offices or by writing to: APHIS Information Division, USDA, Room 1150, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Dow US General Counsel Testifies on Toxic Chemicals

J. H. Hanes, general counsel for Dow Chemical U.S.A., testified on July 10 in opposition to three proposed toxic substances bills, such bills purporting to extend Federal control to chemicals and dangerous substances.

In his testimony, Hanes pointed out that from both the public's and industry's standpoint such bills are not needed and should not be passed. His statement was presented before the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Finance of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives, in Washington, D.C. Hanes listed four major reasons for his company's opposition to the legislation. They are:

1. There already are many laws giving the Federal Government adequate authority to control dangerous substances, and there exists viable legal means enabling injured parties to seek redress. Some 27 health and environmental laws are presently in effect. The new legislation will tend to give near dictatorial powers over the chemical industry to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

2. The inflationary impact of the proposed laws far outweighs the slight possibility of avoiding hazards to the public or to the environment.

3. Such legislation, if enacted, could stifle the discovery or production of chemical products which could solve major problems in health, food production, pollution control or other vital areas.

4. The proposed laws could result in the loss of many jobs due to the lessened ability of the U.S. chemical industry to compete in domestic and world markets. Further, the banning of products by EPA would be a further serious blow to an already depressed economy.

Hanes added that, while there were health and environmental problems in the past, the chemical industry has outpaced municipalities and public utilities in investing capital to control water, air and solid waste emissions. Also, he said that the safety record of the chemical industry is twice as good as the record for all industry in the U.S.

The chemical industry, according to Hanes, shares public concern for the long term effect of its products. Millions of dollars are being spent to gather various data on a wide variety of products. Recently, 11 chemical companies formed the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology to further study commodity chemicals, the basic building blocks of the industry. The Institute, Hanes said, will also emphasize the development of new methods of safety evaluation and make these studies available to all.

Emphasizing the broad reach of existing regulations, Hanes concluded by pointing out the dangers of scare tactics being used by proponents of the legislation and he underscored the potential for near dictatorial powers within EPA. Such powers, he said, could stifle the industry, add fuel to inflation through unnecessary cost increases and add to the unemployment problems of the nation. As an example of such powers, Hanes told the committee that the definition of environment is so broad that killing harmful organism could be a basis for banning a product.

## Bulletin Says Even Gypsy Has Many Natural Foes

The ecological life and times of a tough and unpopular immigrant has been published in the new U.S. Department of Agriculture Information Bulletin, "The Gypsy Moth and Its Natural Enemies."

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mologists from the USDA's Forest Service Northeastern Forest Experiment Station have been studying the life cycle and habits of gypsy moths for almost a score of years. One result of the studies is now focused on using the gypsy moth's natural enemies to control it, instead of depending completely on pesticides.

Introduced into this country from Europe just over a century ago, the gypsy moth defoliated trees on over 750,000 acres last year in the northeastern states and has created serious damage to trees on the countryside in the Middle Atlantic section of the nation. Insatiable, prolific and — like its name — migratory, this insect pest has so far managed to defy all major attempts to suppress it.

Over the years, the gypsy moth has acquired a handful of natural predators, including birds, rodents and other insects. The bulletin itemizes these helpful predators and describes their method of attack. It is the hope of forest scientists that scientific encouragement of these natural enemies of the gypsy moth may help bring this defoliating pest down to tolerable levels.

"The Gypsy Moth and Its Natural Enemies" (Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 381) is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price is 60 Cents.

### **Inventory of Sod Growers New ASPA Market Survey**

For the past several months, the American Sod Producers Association (A.S.P.A.) has been conducting an industry-wide "Inventory of Producers" in both the U.S. and Canada.

A spokesman for that organization said the industry totals will be used in a variety of ways to benefit both producers and buyers of sod. Factual information collected from the surveys can be used effectively in preventing legislation and administrative rulings having adverse effects on the operation and business management of the sod producers as an industry.

A.S.P.A. legal counsel, William Harding, Lincoln, Nebraska, hopes to formulate collected information into tools necessary to emphasize to the government the importance of

the industry and why its voice should be heard. Harding said he plans to present the data to Congress and the ever-growing administrative bureaucracy who often make decisions directly effecting the industry without necessary knowledge of the industry itself.

The A.S.P.A. executive staff has been working for a number of months with land grant colleges, directors of agriculture and several other sources to implement a program in each state for verification of industry information. when completed, the inventory will be the most complete and accurate source of information on the sod industry. It can then be used to answer questions regarding the size of the industry and other total market information.

A new staff of officers is now controlling the direction of A.S.P.A. as a result of an election at the July 16-18 meeting in Kansas City.

Norman LeGrande, Hendricks Sodding and Landscaping in Lincoln, Nebraska, is the new president. LeGrande previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees and was the board Liaison Director for the 1975 convention. Vice-president for the upcoming year is Charles Lain of Pine Island Turf Nursery, Inc., Sussex, New Jersey. Glenn Rehbein, Circle Pines, Minnesota, will serve as secretary. And Tom Thornton, Thornton's Turf Nursery, Elgin, Illinois, is the newly elected treasurer.

New members of the Board of Trustees include; Glenn Rehbein; John Hope, Manderly Turf Farms, Ltd., North Gower, Ontario, Canada; and Charles Davis, Wharton Turf Farms, Wharton, Texas. Davis is the retiring president of A.S.P.A.

Plans were also announced at the meeting to hold their annual mid-winter conference on the gulf side of Florida, February 5-6, 1976. The Sheraton Sand Key Hotel in Clearwater will serve as the meeting headquarters.

### **1975 Design Awards Program At Texas Landscape Meeting**

A highlight of the Texas Society of Landscaping Architects Annual Meeting to be held September 19-20, 1975 at College Station, Texas will

be its Design Awards Program according to Robert W. Caldwell, president.

Any landscape architect registered in the state of Texas is eligible to enter any of his landscape projects which have been completed within the past ten years. Participants are offered three categories in which to compete: residential, public, and commercial. Entries are to include a scaled plan or working drawing of the development, supplemented by sketches or photographs of the finished design, and a concise statement of objectives, problems encountered and restrictions. Three winners in each category will be presented handsome engraved wall plaques and the respective homeowner or business owner will receive certificates.

The Design Awards Program which was so successfully initiated in 1974 is under the direction of Dr. William C. Welch of Texas A&M University, College Station, and H. Durward Thompson of Texas A&I University, Kingsville.

All entries and fees (\$10 for TSLA members and \$15 for non-members per single entry) should be sent to John Teas, Secretary-Treasurer, 4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, Texas 77401, no later than August 15.



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