

OUTLOOK

By Bruce F. Shank, Editor

Sometimes there is no logical explanation for victory when the odds are so immensely stacked against it. All the experts look at individual facts and make a prediction of failure. Such is fairly much the case with our economy.

But, suddenly, by some unrelated event, we see that individual facts are not enough and that experts can be wrong. They forget that in some instances human spirit, determination, teamwork, and a belief in one cause can overcome those negative factors and produce success from near certain failure.

The United States Hockey team, and the Winter Olympics in general, may have reminded us that as a country united under one cause there is little reason why we can't deprive the experts of a severe recession. Can 230 million citizens act as a team? They have during wartime, why not during peacetime? Can we forego selfish interests to help the entire team and thereby help everyone?

On my way to the GCSAA Show in St. Louis, I read a book by Howard Ruff titled *How to Prosper During the Coming Bad Years*. This is a textbook on economic selfishness, total lack of faith in a country, and how to beat the odds to save your family

from possible economic suffering. Forget the rest of the country, look out for number one only. His type of attitude is the surest one to drive us into severe economic problems.

Fight the negative, selfish attitudes being pushed by such authors. Support your local banks and credit unions. Hold back to a reasonable degree your use of credit. Get financial advice and use local savings methods, certainly not foreign ones, although they would probably provide the best return on a short term. Remember, a healthy domestic economy is your best insurance against inflation and recession.

I know it may be termed corny, but be patriotic, show others you care about the team, and invest in its health. Pressure your representatives and senators for fiscal programs which are conservative and designed for long term economic stability. Tell them you want answers this year, before the election. Tell them you want a definite solution to Social Security financing. Tell them you are willing to make adjustments to achieve energy independence. These are the two biggest factors for our domestic economic health. Tell them that you want answers because you are thinking of more than just yourself. You're thinking of the team.

LETTERS

The article in your February, 1980 issue, "Climbing vs. Bucket Lifts: Preferences in Tree Trimming" was a valuable, informative article. Opinions of professional arborists encountering specific and general problems are what make up the continuing advancement of arboriculture as a profession and voicing those opinions is a must if we are to improve the quality of the profession nation wide.

That Mr. Halsted is one of the leading arborists in the area is undisputed. I do, however, take strong exception to his statement that the City of Eugene's arboriculture program has been reduced to a "line clearing" operation.

Mr. Halsted's personal knowledge of the City of Eugene's program and commitment to arboriculture as a profession would have to be limited, since he left the City just 2 months short of 13 years ago.

To begin with, our selection process stresses total arboricultural knowledge, safety, climbing skill, abilities, and aerial lift abilities, in that order. Candidates for a position with our crew are put through a practical exercise involving climbing and aerial lift use. Our contention is, if the person cannot effectively climb, they would be of little use to us.

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Secondly, in January of 1978 we were given the opportunity to expand our crew by 3 positions. The catch was, we could not hire professionals, we had to train our own. Consequently, we developed an 18 month training program combining I.S.A.'s Training and Safety Guide, N.A.A.'s Professional Home Study Program for Arboriculturists, and O.J.T.

I will grant you, our primary concern is public safety, which involves raising trees over streets and signs and eliminating visual obstructions, which brings me back to my concern for Halsted's statement of "The guys say now they don't have time to trim; they only have time to raise trees for the streets".

Regardless of the size of the job or the complexity, our crews hold the health and structure of that tree in equal concern to that of public safety because they know that today's mistake can be tomorrow's accident.

As any other professional trimmer, they care about the tree they trim,

whether it's one limb or a block of street trees.

To use Mr. Halsted's words, "these are the kind of people I have and this is the type of thing we do. It's what makes us number one. We still have a ways to go". Like Mr. Halsted I would say we also have a way to go. I will, however, put our crews among the best.

Adrian Stansfield
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I was aghast to see in Doug Chapman's article such high praise for silver maples, one of the poorest selections one could make for a shade tree. While the advantages of rapid growth and tolerance of urban adversity may be obvious, the disad-

vantages, soon become evident, too. The wood is brittle (in fact, few trees are more subject to breakage from ice accumulation than silver maples, according to W.C. Croxton); the bark is thin and thus easily injured; and older specimens are commonly hollowed out by decay so that they are hazardous. The rooting habits are often a problem, too.

Mr. Chapman does point out that this tree requires pruning on a two or three year cycle to preclude the aforementioned maladies. That advice alone should be sufficient to encourage selection of some other species. How many homeowners are going to invest such time and money in their trees? Most ignore their trees until disaster strikes.

Both Pascal Pirone and George Hepting label silver maple as undesirable, and I shall encourage others to take their advice over Mr. Chapman's.

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Extension Agent
Manassas, Virginia



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